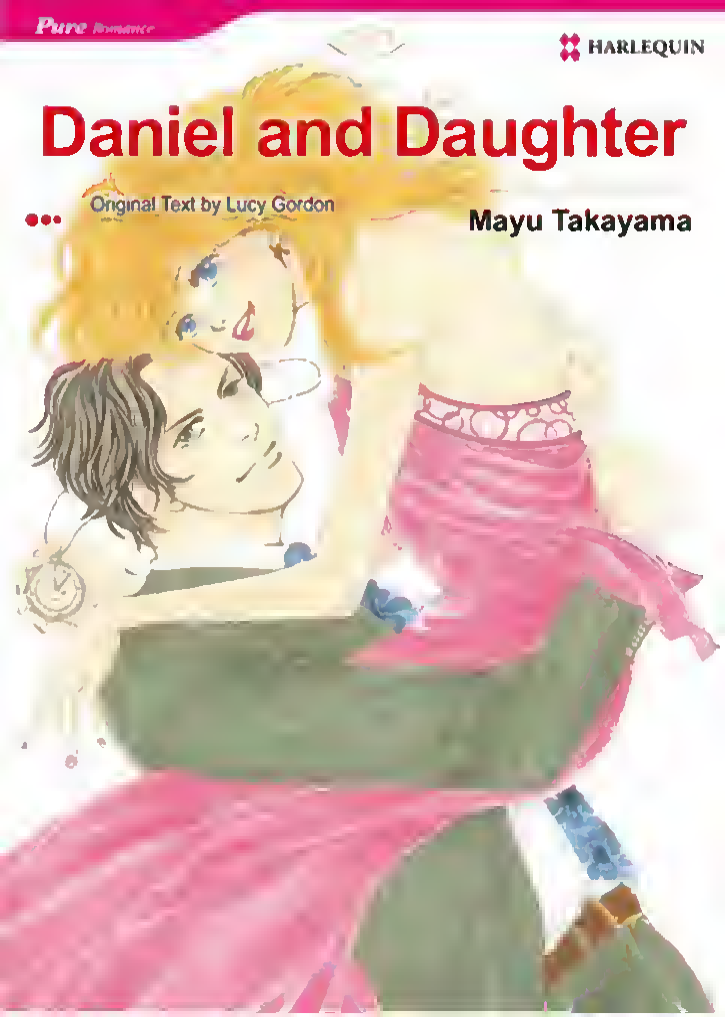
Pure Romance

HARLEQUIN

# Daniel and Daughter

Original Text by Lucy Gordon

Mayu Takayama



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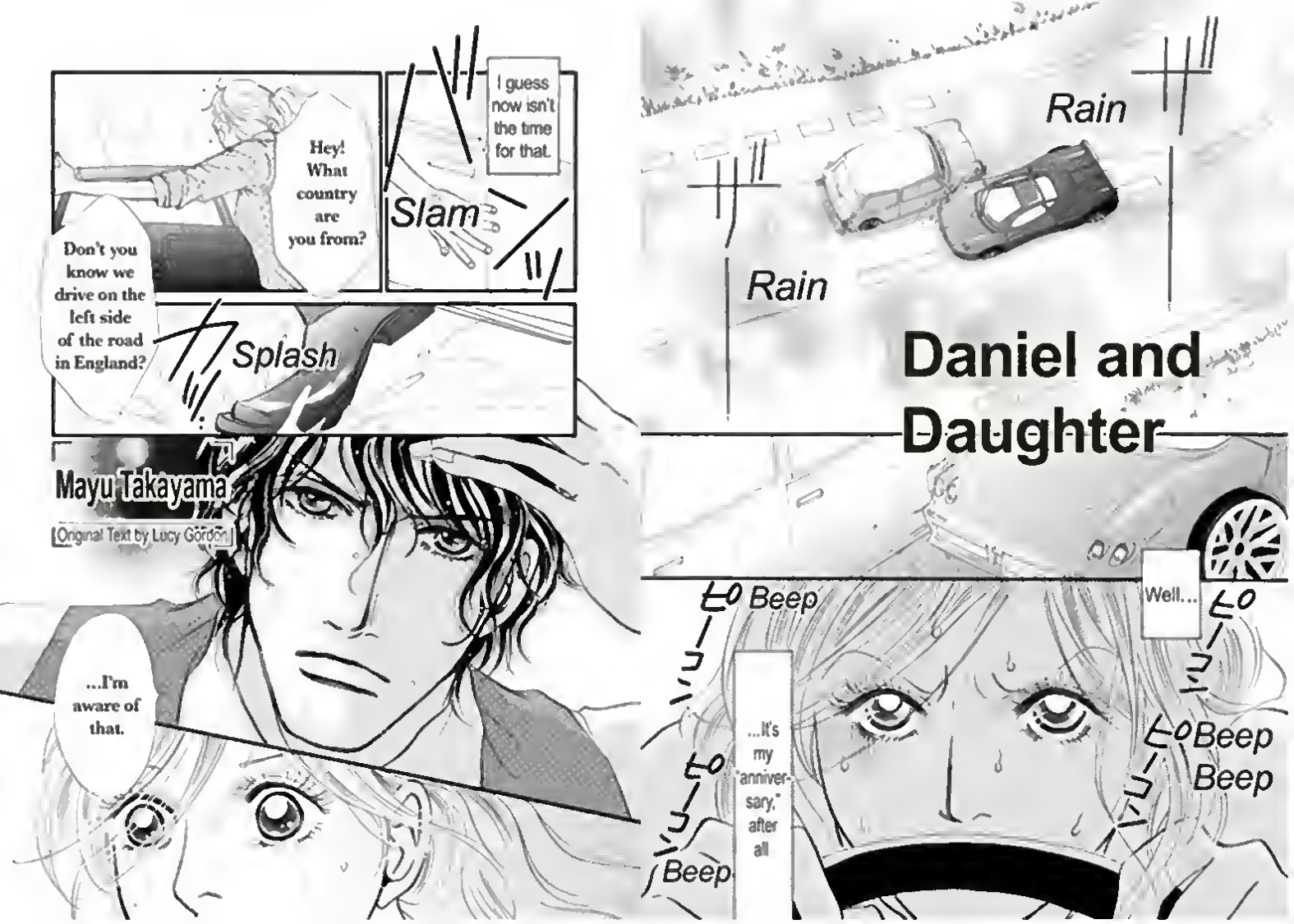
# Credits

Editor

Ruby

# Shojo-Manhwa Scans

"Lee... Let's get married at Gretna Green."
13 years ago today, the man I loved said these words to me.
It was the symbol of elopement for lovers in Scotland.
"I'm so happy, Jimmy."
And for me...
...the beginning of a nightmare.
Screech!
Crash!
Rain
Youthful love affairs come with an expensive education.


Hey! What country are you from?
I guess now isn't the time for that.
Slam
Don't you know we drive on the left side of the road in England?
Splash
Rain
Rain
Daniel and Daughter
Mayu Takayama
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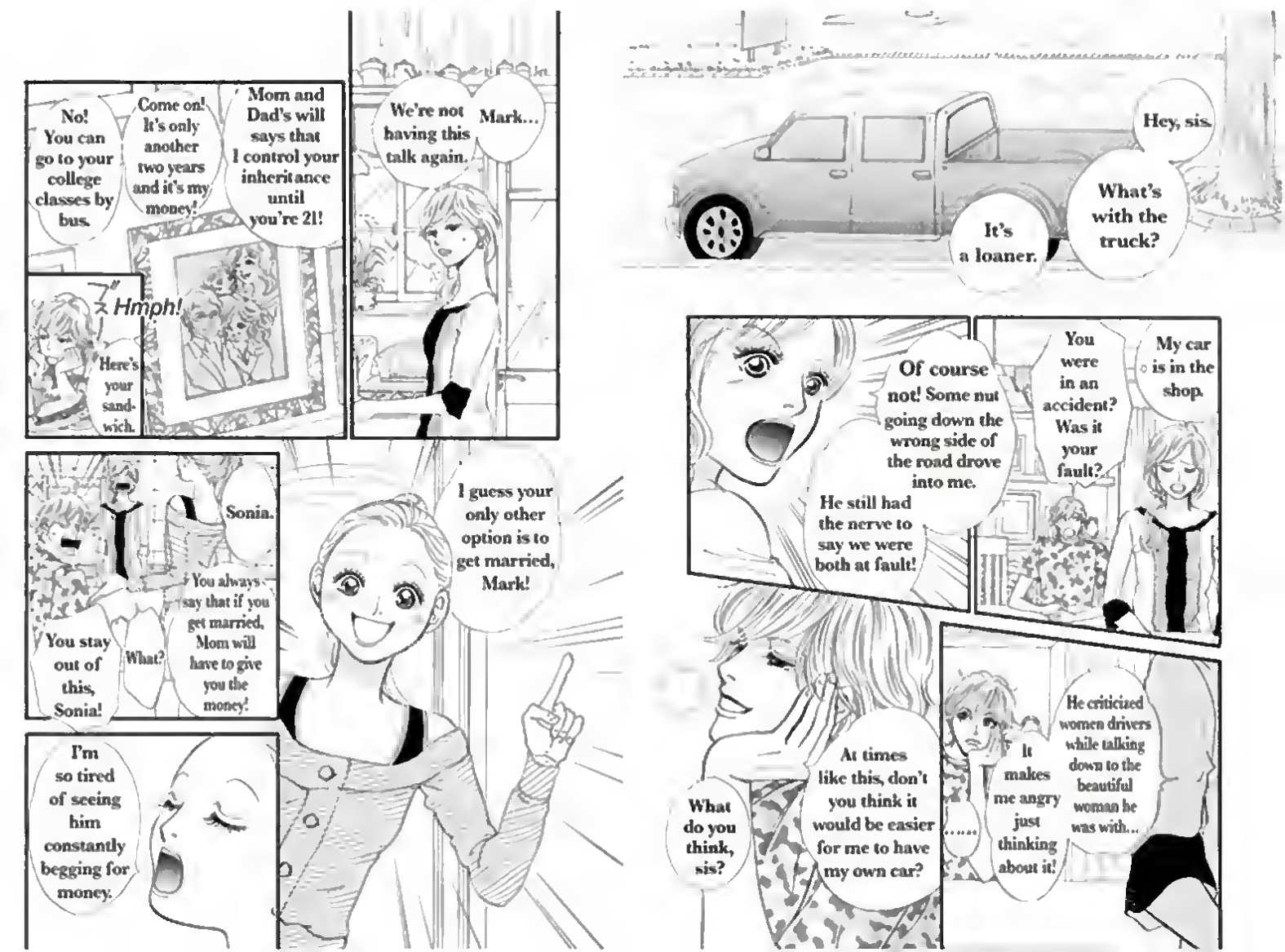
...I'm aware of that.
Beep
...It's my "anniversary," after all
Beep
Well...
Beep
Beep
Beep

Probably daydreaming or something. I swear, women drivers never change.
If you could see me coming, why didn't you try to avoid me?
I thought I was in the proper lane.
I didn't realize I was driving into oncoming traffic.
Huh?
So why didn't you do anything, either?
You were coming right at me and obviously saw me coming!
....W... Wait just a minute!
Who does he think he is?
I wrote my insurance company's number on the back, so talk to them.
Here's my card.
O-Oh...
Flash ピキーン!
You were going the wrong way down a clearly marked street.
So, you're willing to take full responsibility for this accident, right?
You could have just as easily avoided my car.
No... You're partially to blame.
...He's tall!
I'm British, as well.

Soaked
That's for sure!
...Hopefully we'll never meet again.
What century do you live in where they talk like that to a beautiful woman?
It's all well and good to play by your own rules, but you should thank your lucky stars I wasn't driving a truck!
Hmph
Here, my card.
Slam
"Probably daydreaming or something."
Phew. I almost thought he could tell.
Vroom

We were just driving the Ferrari back into England!
Sorry!
Is he nuts?
I presumed you were the one driving in the wrong lane.
...Because...
I assumed that you would avoid me!
Gasp
We were in France until a few minutes ago, where they drive on the right side...!
She's beautiful!
You keep quiet.
Okay.
Flash


No! You can go to your college classes by bus.
Come on! It's only another two years and it's my money!
Mom and Dad's will says that I control your inheritance until you're 21!
Here's your sandwich.
Hmph!
We're not having this talk again.
Mark...
Hey, sis.
What's with the truck?
It's a loaner.
Of course not! Some nut going down the wrong side of the road drove into me.
He still had the nerve to say we were both at fault!
You were in an accident? Was it your fault?
My car is in the shop.
Sonia.
You always say that if you get married, Mom will have to give you the money!
What?
You stay out of this, Sonia!
I guess your only other option is to get married, Mark!
I'm so tired of seeing him constantly begging for money.
What do you think, sis?
At times like this, don't you think it would be easier for me to have my own car?
.....
It makes me angry just thinking about it!
He criticized women drivers while talking down to the beautiful woman he was with...

Mark! You read the Daniel Raife column before me?
...I have everything I need.
As long as my life is the way it is now...
You knew I wanted to be the first to read it!
No.
Who's Daniel Raife?
Oh, be quiet. Today was about...
Hello.
It was Daniel Raife...
...who hit me with his car.
He's a popular philosopher and columnist that even hosts a TV show.
Who? For a fashion photographer, you don't know much about the world.
Mom?
What?
It wasn't just someone with the same name?
.....
...Sonia
Then he could elope, like you did, and he'd be out of our hair!
Gasp
Right, Mom?
Don't be childish!
You should just give Mark his money!
Flap
...but I don't have any regrets about having Sonia.
"Lee...
Lee.. Let's get married at Gretna Green."
My marriage to Jimmy may have been a nightmare...
Shoot.
Thank you, dear. Plenty of milk in mine.
I'll make the tea today, okay?
Sorry, Mom. I went too far.

He says he wants you to be the one to take his shots for the magazine.
Yes! Daniel Raife.
What?
Please Lee! I'll fix your schedule, so do it as a favor to me!
Another photo shoot tomorrow? That's impossible, Sally.
Is it a big client?
You can ask him why tomorrow, so please take the job!
He asked for you by name!
I have to photograph him? You must be joking!
Wait a minute, Sally. I was just in a car accident with him. That can't be right.
What's this? His #1 concern...
...is getting his daughter, Phoebe, into law school to become a judge?
This girl is his daughter...?
Seri-ously?
What?
It's him.
Grrr.
She's 15?
She's really smart and going to go to Oxford!
Isn't she pretty? Phoebe Raife is a couple of years older than me, but we go to the same school, Mom.
Flip
She thought a 15-year-old was his girlfriend?
Maybe she needs glasses.
I don't believe it!
Isn't she mature? She's so cool!

...Yes, I do.

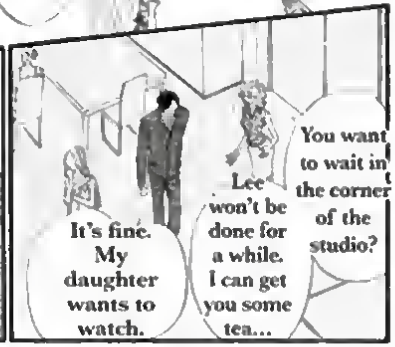
Mr. Raife has been waiting for you!
Lee! What took you so long?

Lee!
I hope you realize I don't usually take rush appointments, Mr. Raife.
Thanks
Of course.

I can't very well cut corners, now can I?

Just like that! Look like you're dancing!
Yes! That's a nice soft pose.
Okay! From the left this time, Claire.
Snap
Snap
Snap
Move the lights farther to the right!

She's wonderful! Don't you think so, Daddy?
You look excited.


It's fine. My daughter wants to watch.
Lee won't be done for a while. I can get you some tea...
You want to wait in the corner of the studio?

Please believe me! Daddy was just acting a little crazy, but he's usually...
Phoebe!
Pph!
She's so pretty...
You're... Phoebe, right?
I told Daddy that if you don't forgive him...
...I would never talk to him again!
Phoebe!

You have a wonderful daughter, Mr. Raife.
I thought your daughter was your girlfriend.
I'm sorry, too.
Let's forget about the whole thing.
A-All right...
Ha ha! Giggle Mmph!

Huh?
I'd also like to apologize for my...attitude.
I'm very sorry.

Mrs. Leone Meredith.
Please forgive me!
I'm very sorry for my carelessness causing our car accident.

Please forgive my father.
I'd like to apologize, too, Mrs. Meredith.

Is this man...
...really the same person I met before?

No doubt we'll be seeing each other at parent-teacher conferences and such.
I hear that my Phoebe goes to school with your daughter.
...Then let's bury the hatchet.
A hand-shake...?
Jump
Grab
Slide
Uh-oh.
Or rather...
Nice to meet you...
May I call you Lee?
Mrs....
No!
I don't like where this is going...

Amazing.
Even through the viewfinder...
His eyes...
You have a call from work.
Mr. Raife?
Don't let him call you by your first name, Lee!
What happened to your rule of being more careful with attractive men?
Thank you.
...If you like.
Just concentrate on your work
Right this way.
It's on me.
Be careful.
Call me Daniel.
Snap
Snap
Snap
Concentrate!
Raise your chin a little.
Hold it...

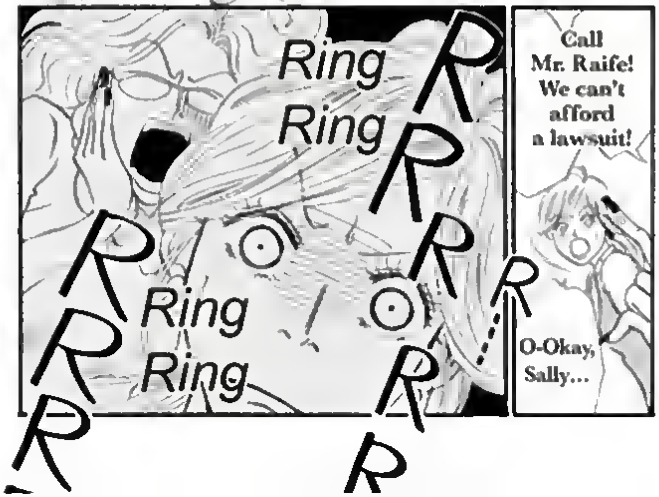
...Of course!
Could you stand over there?
Actually, I want to get a few shots of just you.
I'll treasure them forever!
Thank you, Mrs. Meredith!
I knew it...
She's...
Sure. We're finished, anyway.
Do you mind?
I'd love to! We'll just wait for Daddy.
You want to shoot me, too?
Would you mind if I took some shots of you?
Oh... Yes?
Phoebe...
...I'd rather keep this professional, if you don't mind.
Phoebe told me you were single.
Huh?
I don't mean to pry, but when was your divorce?

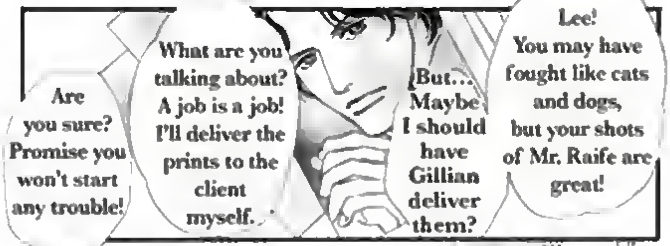
"I'd really like to see you again."
Let's get ready for the next shoot!
Lee?
No. Sorry.
I'll call you in two days when your photos are done.
A single parent...
So when was your divorce?
...Three years ago.
Is there anyone you're seeing right now?
I'm just curious.
I'm a single parent myself.
What?
I want you to go on a date with me.
.....
I don't see what that has to do with...
I'd really like to see you again.
I swore I'd never make the same mistake.
"Be sure to read my bestselling book...
...Fantastic Women.
Until next time, I'm Daniel Raife."
But I can't!
I wanted to say...
"Me, too."

I'll deliver the photos.
–Mark.
If he loses them and someone else gets a hold of them, we're in huge trouble!
What are we going to do, Lee? He's a celebrity!


Slam
Sally! I got back from changing and the photos were gone! Did you send Gillian?


Lee...
...I found this note...


Ring
Ring
Ring
Ring
Call Mr. Raife! We can't afford a lawsuit!
O-Okay, Sally...


Are you sure? Promise you won't start any trouble!
What are you talking about? A job is a job! I'll deliver the prints to the client myself.
But... Maybe I should have Gillian deliver them?
Lee! You may have fought like cats and dogs, but your shots of Mr. Raife are great!

His office. Phoebe is stopping by there on her way home from school.
You're taking them to his house?
Aw... So he isn't coming here?

I see...

Hey, sis!
Mark! On your way back from school?
You said Daniel Raife is coming to pick up his photos today, right?
Oh... I was just about to go deliver them.

…What?
I understand that you're angry…
O-Of course.
Naturally, my company won't charge you a thing for the…
…Shocked that you went to these lengths to avoid me.
…But then again, I could tell right away that wasn't the case.

Stop right there.
I'm very sorry, it wasn't my…
I'd like to hear it from you in person.
What's the meaning of this?
You sent your younger brother to deliver them?
H-Hello, Studio R.
Is this Lee? It's Daniel Raife. I just got your photos.
O-Oh…?
Well!
I was shocked…
Photos are supposed to be the client's private property.
I was responsible for protecting that privacy and failed.
I'm very sorry, Mr. Raife.

I'm still attracted to you.
Ever since I met you...
I can't stop thinking about you.
Somehow...
Lee.
I'm not giving up.
But that's not what concerns me right now.
It's you!
Fwoosh
...Because your brother, Mark, explained that he took your photos so that he could meet my daughter, Phoebe.
What?
On top of that, your baby-faced brother was in full romance mode and took Phoebe out on a date.
You've yelled at me, insulted me, and now failed me at your own job.
...But it still isn't.
It should be enough.

Vroom
That's right! Mark! This is all his fault...!
Slam
You don't get it, sis.
£800? It's scrap!
You could have bought the new £7,000 car you've been wanting if you'd just wait!
Mark!
Where did you get that old piece of junk?
I bought it on layaway for £800.
Mark...
You aren't getting serious with Phoebe, are you...?
I wanted a car now.
Something that's £7,000 that I can't have now doesn't mean anything.
"Ha ha ha!"
Every day and night, he's sending me his love vibes.
At this rate, she'll become a nun, so I have to try harder!"
"Recently, I'm being completely shut out by a woman I'm interested in.
Oh!
I wish it were.
...must be a dream...
This...
delivery
Dear Lee, When will you let me into your life?
-Daniel
It was in his column this morning, too!
He's talking about you, Mom!
Siiiigh
What?
Kidding!
When is Mark getting home? Is he at his friend's house again?
Stare
...
Mom, you're drooling.
What do I do?
What do I...?
What do I do?
I the media finds out who I am, I can't avoid him.

Men will trick you, fill you with promises and, in the end, abandon you.
"Be sure to read my bestselling book, *Fantastic Women*.
"All right, ladies, remember to watch out for those guys!"
Have you forgotten your three big rules, Lee?
Until next time, I'm Daniel Raife!"
*"Lee... I'm not giving up."*
Her dad's strict, too.
He'd kill me if I tried anything.
See you.
...Urk.
Neither Phoebe nor I want to go all the way yet.
Smile
We're being careful.
If you're worried about what you did at my age, sis...
Phoebe!
Are you and Mark....
Um...
Lee? You have a guest.
I know exactly what I did when I was 16.

Any-way...
That should put your mind at ease.
Huh?
I think more of a family relationship would be beneficial from now on.
Give me a call when you're available to plan.
–Daniel Raife.
There will be a dance party at Mark's college soon.
I couldn't convince him to let Phoebe come unless the four of us go together.
By the time you read this message...
...I think you'll have seen how strongly Phoebe feels about Mark.
So that's why he sent her.
He's really smart...
...and funny.
Huh?
Mark is a great guy.
Please don't scold him!
More than anything, it's sweet that he's not trying to rush things.
Good! Let me know if something happens right away!
I'll scold the stupid out of him!
We're getting along. ♡
Blush
I came to deliver this.
U-Um...
I guess he does do his homework...
O-Oh...? Huh.
Dear Lee
It's from my father.

...I'd let him.
If he tried to kiss me when the mood was right...
What would happen if I met him in this state?
Thump
I'd let him go even further than that.
Thump
I can't stand it...
Thump
...My actions aren't matching my thoughts.
Thump
It's dangerous
Thump
Why am I imagining this?
Fwump
I'm not a teenager anymore!
Gloom
...I'll go.
You win.
He's an annoying little brother, but I feel bad...
Sis... Please don't turn him down again.
Mark...!
That sneaky Daniel Raife!
Honestly...
Fump
Huh?
That dress...
It looks great on you! Really sexy!
...Mom!
Does he think he can win me over like this?

Gulp
Lee.
His smile...
...It almost knocked me out! Get a hold of yourself, Lee!
I've missed you.
It's been a while.
Take care of my daughter tonight, Mark.
Phoebe... You look great.

I-I must seem bigger because of my personality.
I've been a mother so long, I must seem like a little old lady.
An old lady?
...I can't help but think how much more petite you are than I thought, Lee.
Holding you like this...
I'm being enchanted by the smell of you that I've dreamed about.
ミルキー
Blush
A PTA meeting?
I have to be at a PTA meeting tomorrow.
N-No! The alcohol will go to my head.
Shall we dance, too?
Grab
Then let's go keep a closer eye on those two.
You'll get more drunk sitting still with a glass in your hand.

Someone without any scars to show would n t be of any interest to me.
Huh?
What's so good about all that?
They have no reason — to give up.
They can be so honest because they're not afraid.
They have no plans.
Rabble Rabble
That's my philosophy, anyway.
Making mistakes
suffering terrible pain and having the strength to overcome it makes a person much more interesting.

Your hair looks funny!
Lee!
Over there.
W-Where's Mark?
I won't let him get away with getting any closer to her than that.
Those kids don t know what it's like to have made a mistake.
I was just feeling a little jealous.
What are you thinking about?
Something sad?

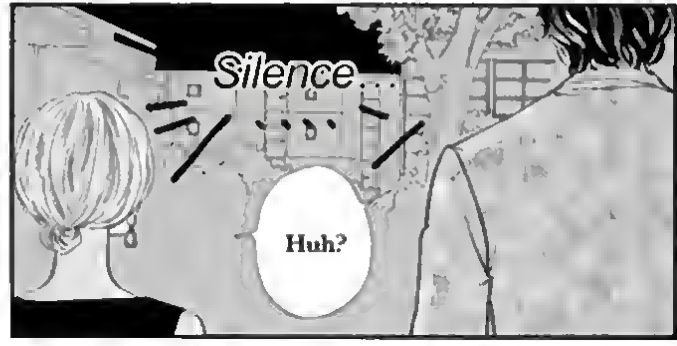
"Let's get married at Gretna Green."
"Anyone can get married there, no matter what their parents say."
"Jimmy!"
"Lee..."
My parents were against my dating Jimmy and tried their best to convince me not to do something as stupid as marry him.
At that age, they only helped push me into it.
We had already said our wedding vows at the altar.
My parents came to stop me, but they were too late.
"Yes...!"
"We'll get married and live happily ever after."
"Lee..."
That's where they do the anvil wedding, where the blacksmith hits the anvil and says, "Done!" right?

I can't believe I let him take me to a bar.
Sway
It's hard to believe that you have a daughter Sonia's age.
There's something that I've been wondering about.
I'm being completely overcome by the atmosphere.
"Lee... Stay with me forever. Marry me."
"I'm so happy!"
I thought that his personality made me feel more like a woman.
My boyfriend, Jimmy, was very "manly" and attractive.
Sonia...
...was born when I was 16.

Are you sure you haven't just convinced yourself...
...that your "story" is over?
So "security" equals "happiness" to you?
...So... You're happy now?
Yes! The happiest I've ever been.
I have a peaceful life that no one tries to upset.
...You finally...
...called me Daniel...
Being manipulated by an attractive man once in a lifetime is plenty.
Don't look at me like that.
Daniel...!
The party will be over soon.
Let's get going.
Due to its lack of rules regarding parental consent, it has long been a favorite destination for young couples to elope.
Gretna Green is a small village in Scotland, right near the English border.
I spent all my time every day raising Sonia alone.
We had to figure out ways to pay for the fines of his crimes and bail.
His "manliness" became "laziness."
...I'm sure you can imagine what happened.
Reality was quick to close in on us.
...and I became myself again, at long last.
I was able to get my life back little by little after I got a job as a photographer's assistant.
I finally divorced Jimmy...

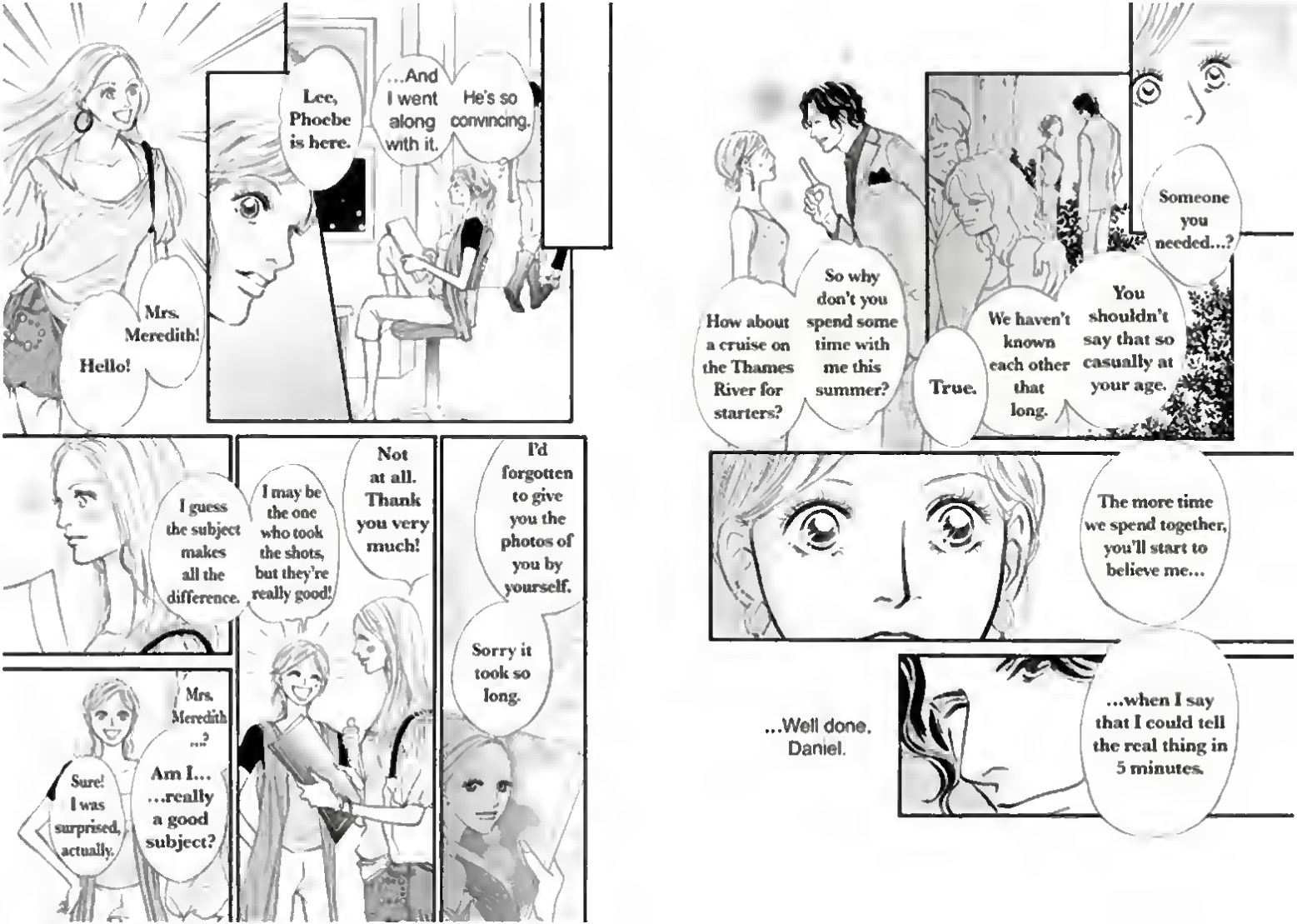
Daniel...
Lee...
You're a woman worth waiting for.
I knew from the moment I met you...
...that you were someone I needed in my life.

Let's go get Mark and Phoebe.
I'll have to be happy with that for today.
Blush
....!

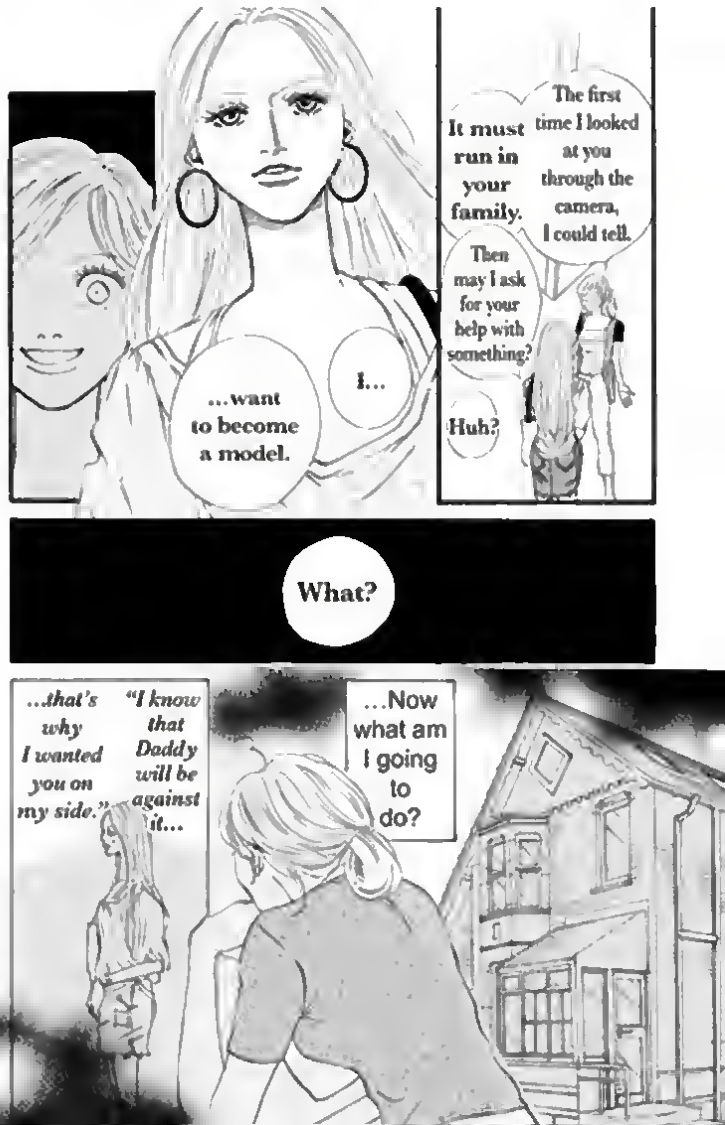

Silence...
Huh?

I'll head home myself. Thank you for tonight.

It's past midnight! It's over already!
Oh...
I guess Mark will bring Phoebe home...


Lee, Phoebe is here.
...And I went along with it.
He's so convincing.
Mrs. Meredith!
Hello!
I guess the subject makes all the difference.
I may be the one who took the shots, but they're really good!
Not at all. Thank you very much!
I'd forgotten to give you the photos of you by yourself.
Sorry it took so long.
Mrs. Meredith ...?
Sure! I was surprised, actually.
Am I... ...really a good subject?
How about a cruise on the Thames River for starters?
So why don't you spend some time with me this summer?
True.
We haven't known each other that long.
You shouldn't say that so casually at your age.
Someone you needed...?
The more time we spend together, you'll start to believe me...
...Well done, Daniel.
...when I say that I could tell the real thing in 5 minutes.

Clatter
Clatter
Clatter
What's bugging you?
...it's bugging me...
...Now that I've said it...
"I... I do...
"I can't do it, Phoebe."
"Do you think I have potential or not?
Tell me honestly!"
...but I can't help you with this, Phoebe. I'm sorry."
Gulp...
Phoebe's mother lives in Paris?
Yeah, she's an academic of something.
More importantly!
Yes, I am! But now she's suddenly announced she's staying at her mother's in in Paris all summer!
Mark. Say, you're Phoebe's...
It's unbelievable!
This has to be her father's doing.
He's trying to keep Phoebe away from me so he can have her to himself!
Phht!
Slam


...want to become a model.
I...
It must run in your family.
The first time I looked at you through the camera, I could tell.
Then may I ask for your help with something?
Huh?
What?
...that's why I wanted you on my side."
"I know that Daddy will be against it...
...Now what am I going to do?

He wouldn't have followed Phoebe to Paris...
His car's been gone since this morning.
Where's Mark?
...That reminds me...
Never mind!
Everything is so simple for you
Sis?
A gloomy summer starts with a gloomy tradition.
Fun time with Mr. Raife?
Hey! Your father is waiting for you. Get going.
Then I won't have as much time to relax!
What are you talking about, Sonia?
I'm worried about leaving you by yourself, Mom.
Maybe I should leave tomorrow instead.
Bye!
Got it. Everything's on the list.
When I get home, I'm going straight to summer camp, so buy lots of snacks, Mom.
...Okay!

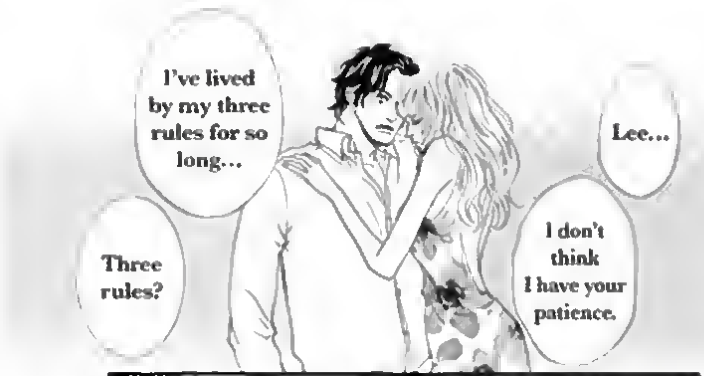
I'm shocked how easy I'm being manipulated...
It must be because of this rare London sunshine
What were you just thinking, Lee?
I'm grateful for that miracle.
Tonight's dinner is also a special treat!
We'll be going on dates all summer, so get ready!
You're letting him get to you...!
I could only talk to Jimmy at his job on my way home from school.
A date this perfect...
What?
...This is a first for me.
Here you are.
Stupid, isn't it?
He always used to say that you "don't have to spend money to be happy."
Lee...
...welcome to my home.
...Jimmy is the one who was stupid.
He's the reason you were so pure and adorable when I met you.
...Daniel!

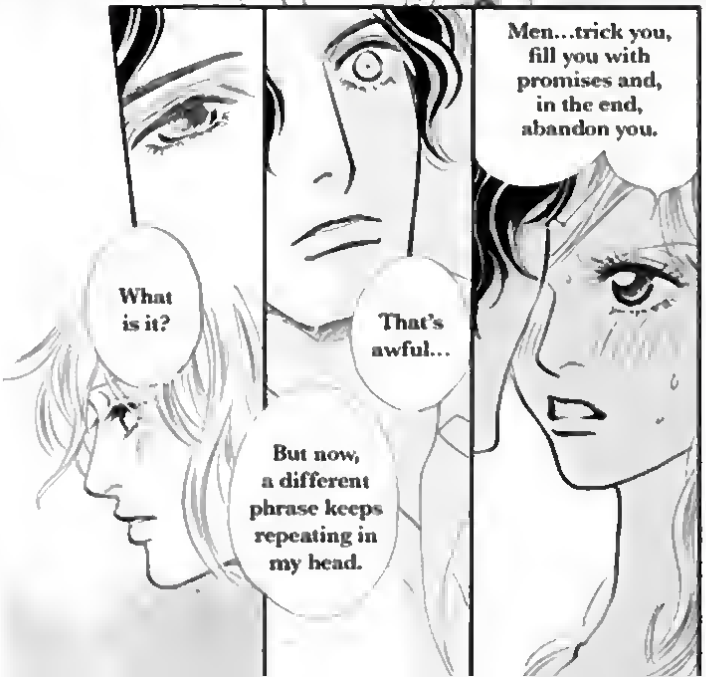
Is it working already...?
I guess so.
Being a single father for so long has paid off.
It's good.
You must have played the fact that I wasn't expecting much.
Even better than I expected.
...
It must be
Daniel's eyes...
...look like they're about to fire laser beams...
What?
Actually, I just got a call from a ferry company in Dover.
.....

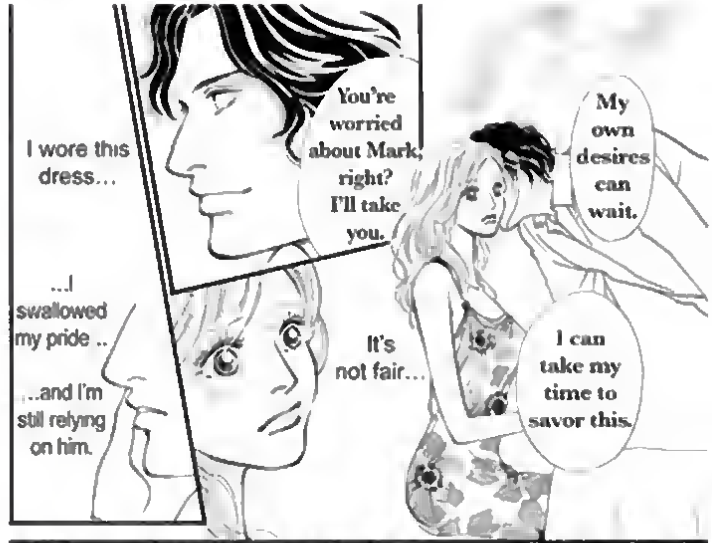
T-Thank you. I will.
Home cooking in his territory..
You can shower and wait in the guest room in the back, if you like.
That's right! I just have to season it.
Daniel...
...you're really going to cook dinner for me?
I brought two dinner dresses.
Do I go for it...
...or not?
...What am I doing?
I'm falling for his trap.
Sssss

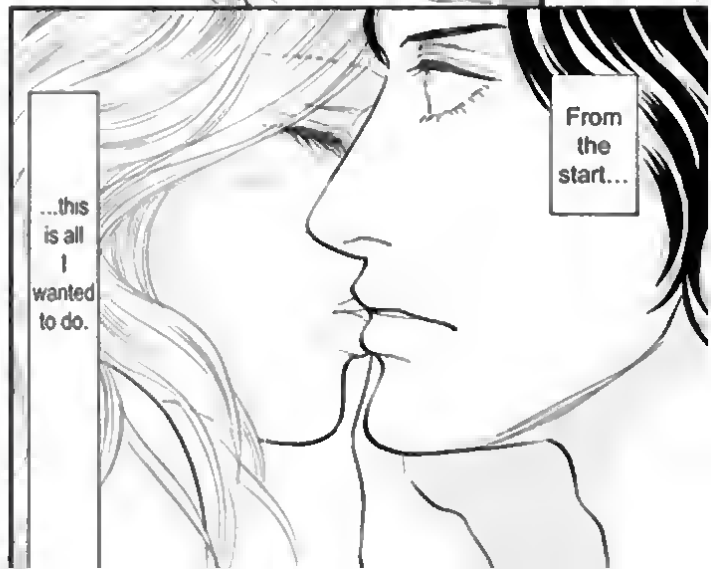
He must have wanted to see Phoebe so badly!
What a dope!
Ha ha ha!
ぷっ
...but I don't want to rush you into anything.
To be honest, I was happy that you made the decision to wear that dress...
Uh...
You were so tense a moment ago, it was setting me on edge.
What?
Good. Now you're relaxed.
I'm not a young man.
I know that I have to be patient for what I really want.

Why didn't he call me?
Un-believ-able!
He must have been embarrassed. Seems he left without telling you.
Mark's car was impounded after it broke down on a ferry.
Mark is with Phoebe in Paris.
What?
Phoebe told them to call me.
Never mind. I'm sure Mark learned his lesson.
Daniel... Thank you.
The car is being repaired, Mark is in Paris and is coming back with Phoebe.
It's all right.
I knew that scrap heap was junk...!
I should go get him!
England
France
Three times...
Apparently, he couldn't bring himself to leave the ferry and went back and forth from Dover three times.

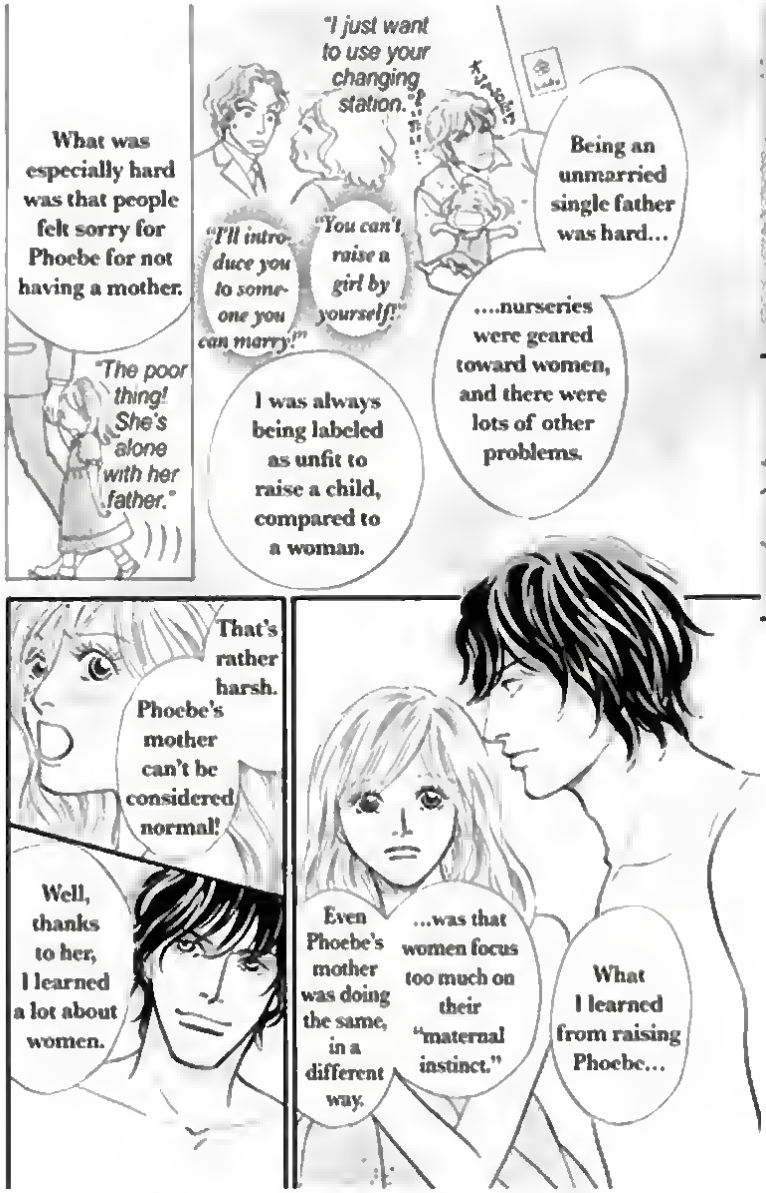

I've lived by my three rules for so long...
Three rules?
Lee...
I don't think I have your patience.


Men...trick you, fill you with promises and, in the end, abandon you.
What is it?
That's awful...
But now, a different phrase keeps repeating in my head.


I wore this dress...
...I swallowed my pride ..
...and I'm still relying on him.
You're worried about Mark, right? I'll take you.
My own desires can wait.
It's not fair...
I can take my time to savor this.


From the start...
...this is all I wanted to do.

W-What are you talking about?
Huh...?
It was right after he had been nominated valedictorian at his college.
...and abandoned in the end.
...filled with promises...
Tricked...
...About your three rules...
I knew a man like that once.
What?
No...
He proposed to her, but she laughed in his face.
Why...?
According to her...
Soon after, she became pregnant.
They got married as students?
He met an eccentric girl who had also been chosen as valedictorian...
...and they fell in love.
How does it feel?
...come in different types, after all.
Maybe men...
Don't make me say it...
It's miraculous...


What was especially hard was that people felt sorry for Phoebe for not having a mother.
"The poor thing! She's alone with her father."
"I just want to use your changing station."
"I'll introduce you to someone you can marry!"
"You can't raise a girl by yourself!"
I was always being labeled as unfit to raise a child, compared to a woman.
Being an unmarried single father was hard...
....nurseries were geared toward women, and there were lots of other problems.
That's rather harsh. Phoebe's mother can't be considered normal!
Well, thanks to her, I learned a lot about women.
Even Phoebe's mother was doing the same, in a different way.
...was that women focus too much on their "maternal instinct."
What I learned from raising Phoebe...

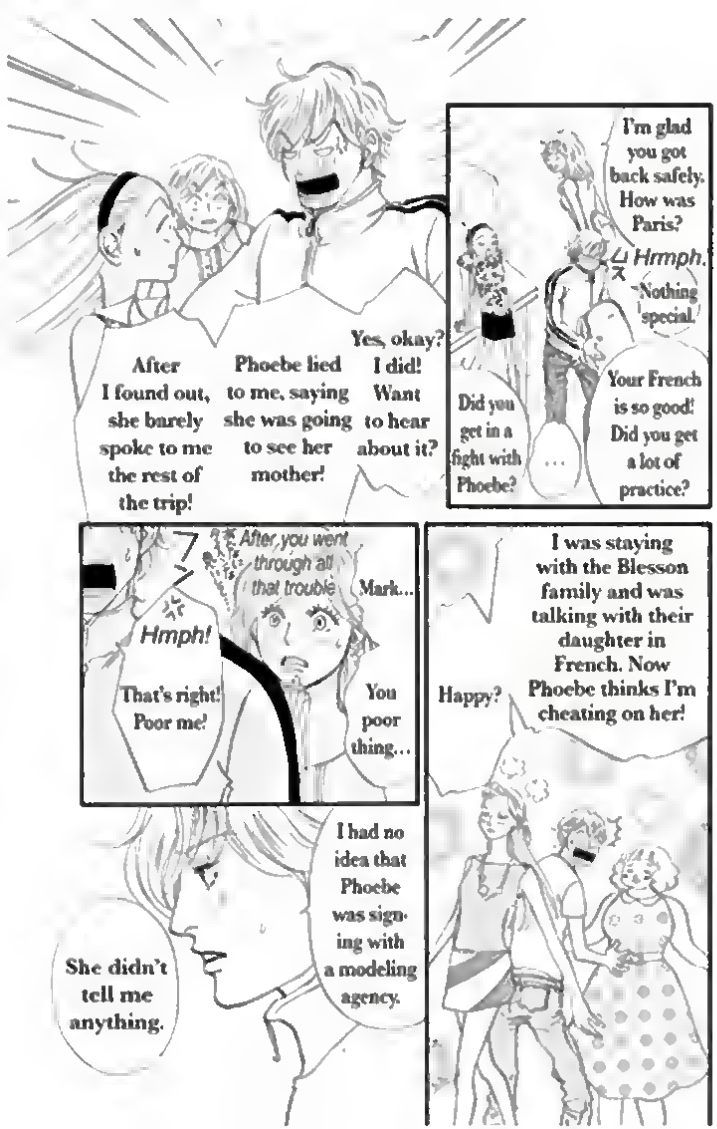
She wanted to have a child with the DNA of a valedictorian to raise over the long-term for educational experiments.
"Controlled breeding..."
...it was an "experiment."
She believed that a child is the property of its mother.
What...
She...
He wouldn't give up the daughter they had together.
She was wrong about one thing.
"Paternal instinct."
Daniel... You mean the man in that story is...
Paris...
The daughter was raised by her loving father, alone.
She eventually became an academic and settled in Paris.

How do you do it? I could never...
It's because of Sonia.
She can tell how I feel.
What if Sonia chooses Jimmy.
Her father is comfortably remarried to a rich woman.
...It does.
Every year.
Sonia doesn't know what he's really like.
...and doesn't come home?
She always asks me for something
"Mom! Buy lots of snacks for camp!"
...to let me know she's coming home.
It's all thanks to how you raised her.
You should be proud.
Daniel...
That's so touching...
Isn't she great?
Yes, but...

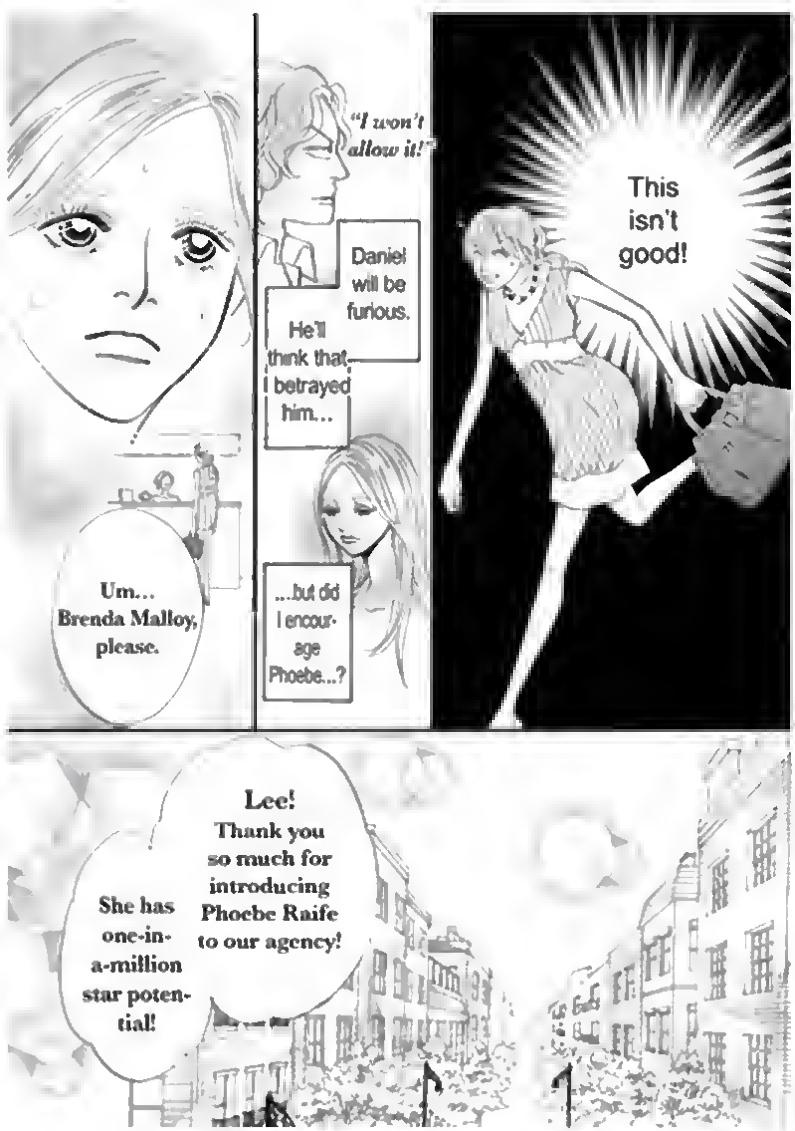
I'm...
...beginning to fall in love with Daniel.
...am I also going to be dissected someday for your research?
Professor Raife...
I got my own talk show after going on a late-night program, and was even able to write a book.
It must have been ironic for Caroline, Phoebe's mother.
I haven't come to a conclusion in my personal research yet.
I wouldn't want my life to be an "experiment."
I love him.
...doesn't it bother you, letting Sonia visit her father every year?
Lee...
Oh...
It might be because of my experience. I don't like how she only tries to be a parent when it suits her.
She and her mother have met before. I don't like letting her visit.
Phoebe isn't at her mother's in Paris. She's at a friend's.

Sigh
Well... I suppose.
I don't know how to show her the danger of getting into such a risky world without any potential or experience.
I was worried how much Phoebe was hanging around the models at your studio.
Gulp
She just turned 16. You can't force her into a career...
If anything, it should give her more choices.
Is getting her into college forcing her into a career?
Uh-oh...
I know that you wouldn't give Phoebe any false hope as a photographer.
Right, Lee?
...I wouldn't say Phoebe doesn't have any potential ..
I won't allow it!

Is it because she might meet her mother there?
You're worried about her?
She was insistent on going to Paris alone this year.
I wish that Phoebe would consider my feelings that much.
I-I forgot all about that!
"I want to be a model. Help me convince Daddy!"
She has friends there, and I let her go to look at schools, but she has to get serious about her studies soon.
She's just a teenager, but says she wants to know "what's hot in Paris."
No...
I'm more worried about this "fashion" bug she seems to have caught.
I told her she won't be able to get into Oxford, but she's so stubborn...
What should I do?

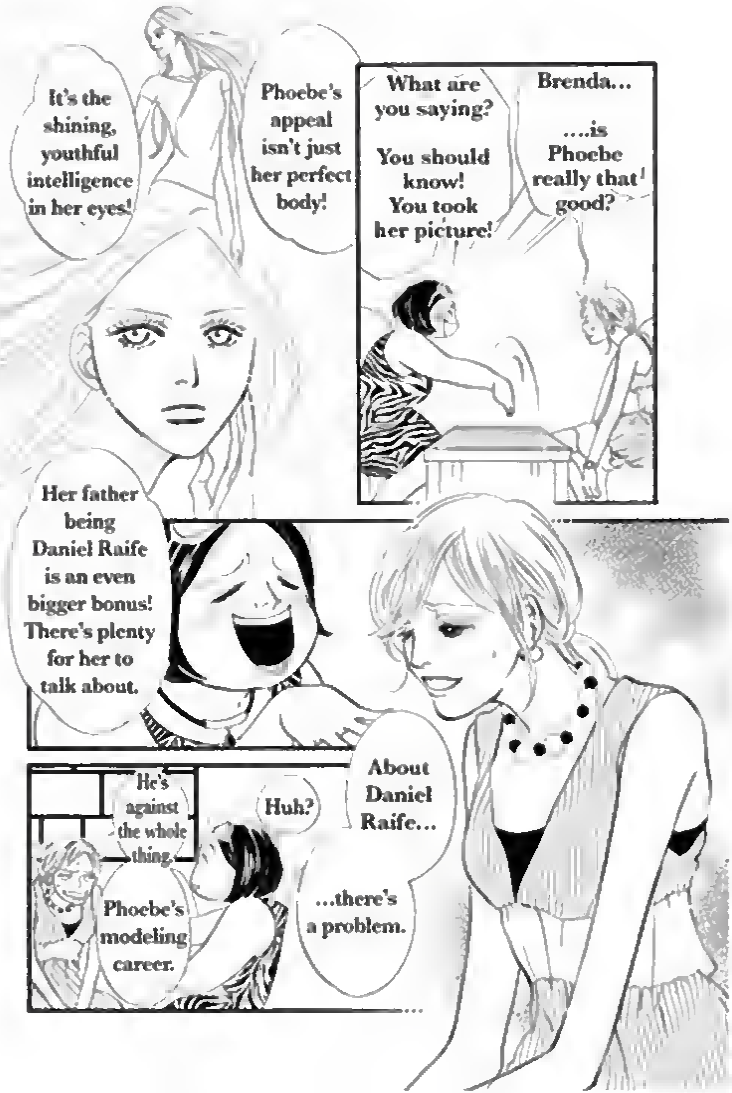

After I found out, she barely spoke to me the rest of the trip!
Phoebe lied to me, saying she was going to see her mother!
Yes, okay? I did! Want to hear about it?
I'm glad you got back safely. How was Paris?
Hrmph.
Nothing special.
Did you get in a fight with Phoebe?
...
Your French is so good! Did you get a lot of practice?
After you went through all that trouble Mark...
Hmph!
That's right! Poor me!
You poor thing...
I had no idea that Phoebe was signing with a modeling agency.
She didn't tell me anything.
I was staying with the Blesson family and was talking with their daughter in French. Now Phoebe thinks I'm cheating on her!
Happy?

Mom! I'm home!
You're so tan!
Ha ha!
I have plenty of time to think about it.
For the moment...
That problem will have to wait until their vacation is over.
...I won't see them for a while.
Daniel said he and Phoebe were going to her grandparents' place after they get back...
I'm back...
にやり
Grin
Welcome home, Mark.


Um… Brenda Malloy, please.
"I won't allow it!"
Daniel will be furious.
He'll think that I betrayed him…
…but did I encourage Phoebe…?
This isn't good!
Lee!
Thank you so much for introducing Phoebe Raife to our agency!
She has one-in-a-million star potential!

I thought you knew about this, sis.
Phoebe said that her audition photo was one that you shot.
Mark… What did you say?
What…?
Please!
Mark, you have to tell me!
What agency was it?
You're joking!
She used that shot?
You're not going to side with her on this?
Oh, come on.

Lee...
Phoebe has practically debuted already.
Brenda, please!
I'm sorry, but I can't do that.
.....
So... I'm asking you to forget about Phoebe....!
...but it was a fantastic shot.
I don't know what you were thinking when you took her picture...
It's because of you...
...Lee.

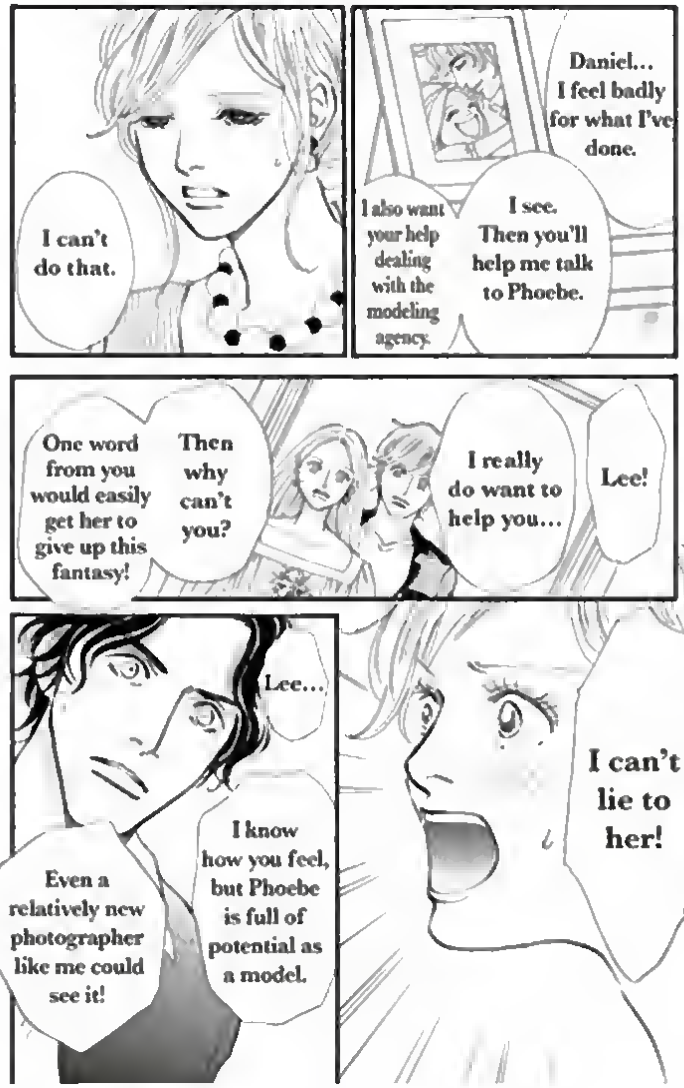

It's the shining, youthful intelligence in her eyes!
Phoebe's appeal isn't just her perfect body!
What are you saying? You should know! You took her picture!
Brenda... ....is Phoebe really that good?
Her father being Daniel Raife is an even bigger bonus! There's plenty for her to talk about.
He's against the whole thing.
Huh?
About Daniel Raife...
Phoebe's modeling career.
...there's a problem.

Ding Dong
....Hello, Lee.
I've been waiting for you.
Click
I didn't think this would be how we would get together again.
.....
My family is in turmoil because of the photo you took.
...I knew.
I thought I asked you not to encourage her?

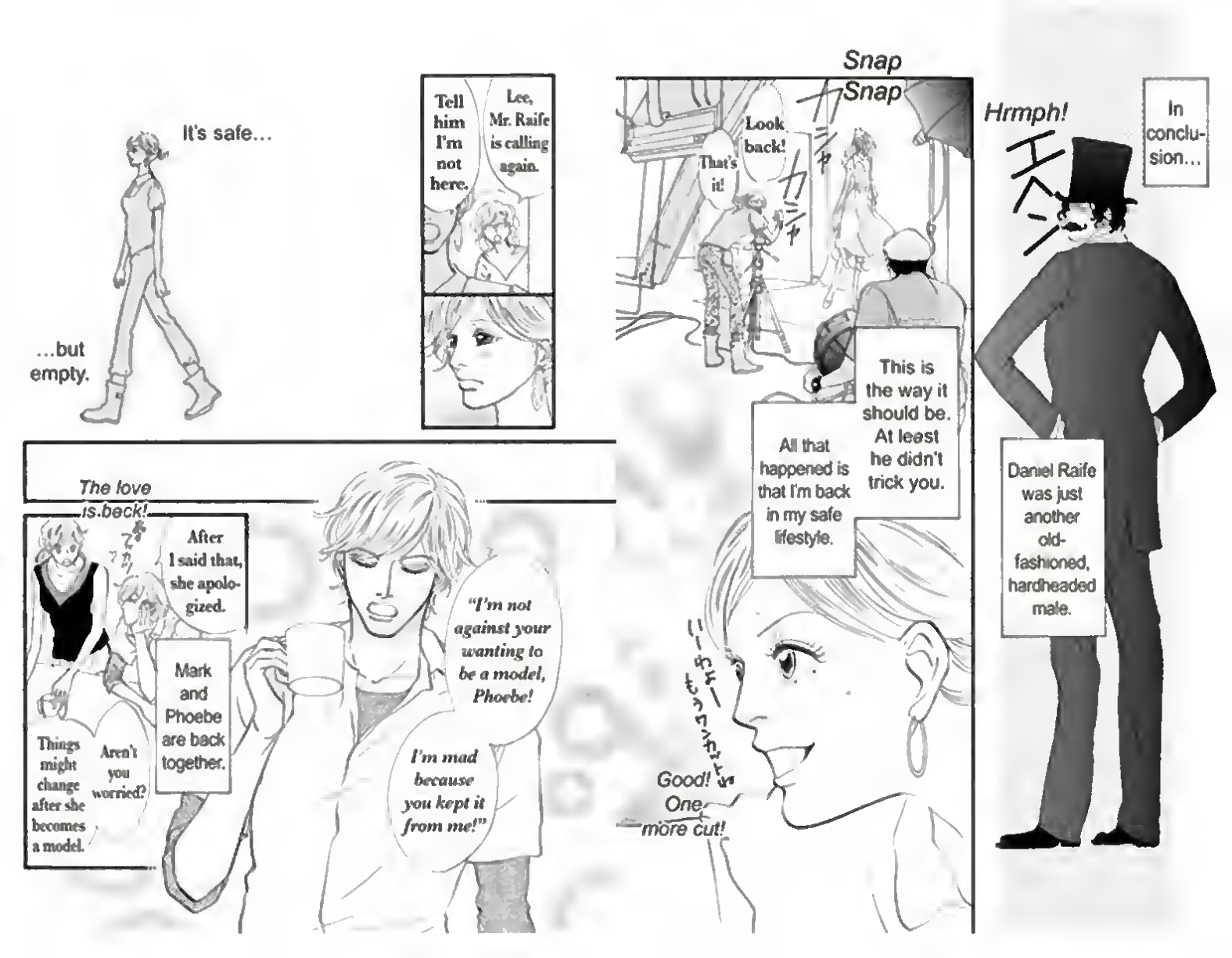
You wanted to see what Phoebe Raife would look like in print?
"Would you mind...
...if I took some shots of you?"
Wasn't it because, as a photographer, you could see her potential?
This is the way it is.
You have to accept it, Lee.

Mr. Raife called, saying he needs to see you right away.
Can you meet him at his place?
It's Sally.
...Hello?
RRRRRR
Ring Ring
Phoebe has clearly shown she wants to be a model.
The rest is between us and Mr. Raife.

That's why I told Phoebe how I felt, but also that I couldn't help her.
Because I care about you, too...!
16 is the perfect age to start modeling.
Calm down and listen to me, Daniel.
I feel betrayed...!
...Lee...
You're saying that you can't sacrifice your pride for love?
Remind me what wonderful decision did you make when you were 16?
And you?
Why don't you at least try trusting Phoebe's decision?
That agency is a good place that will look after her.


I can't do that.
Daniel... I feel badly for what I've done.
I also want your help dealing with the modeling agency.
I see. Then you'll help me talk to Phoebe.
One word from you would easily get her to give up this fantasy!
Then why can't you?
I really do want to help you...
Lee!
Lee...
Even a relatively new photographer like me could see it!
I know how you feel, but Phoebe is full of potential as a model.
I can't lie to her!

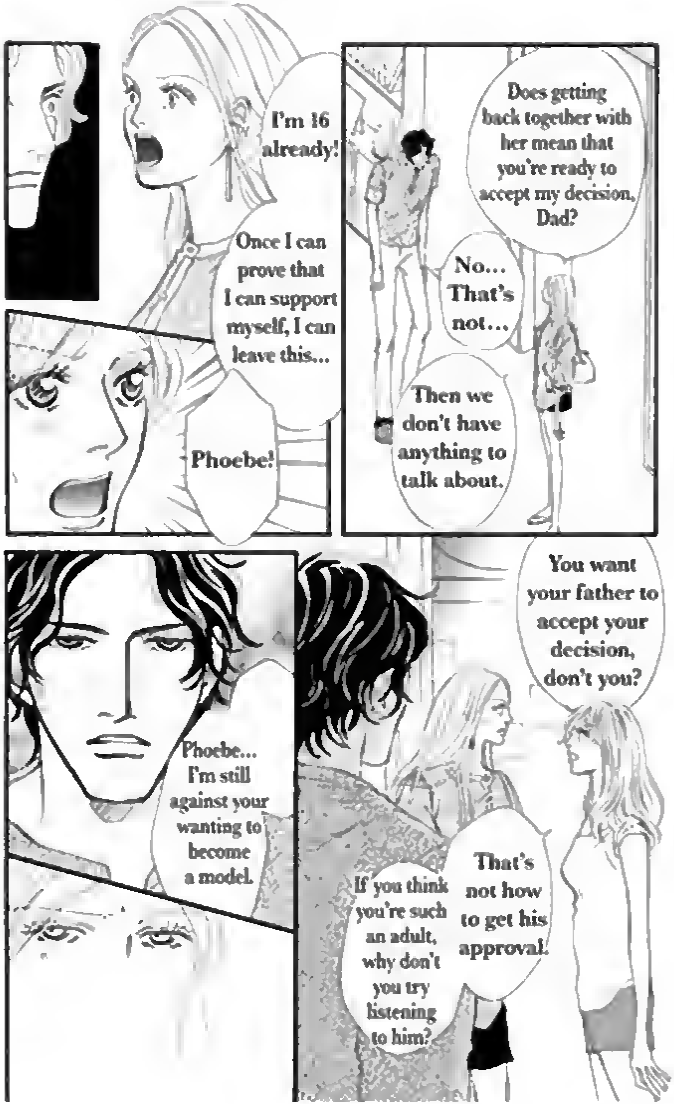
Sis...!
Daddy!
Phoebe!
Daddy, that's horrible! Lee didn't do anything wrong!
...You selfish man...
You said...
"Someone without any scars to show would be of no interest to me."
You support adventure when you're trying to bed a woman...
....but you're going to raise your own daughter in a cage?


It's safe...
...but empty.
Tell him I'm not here.
Lee, Mr. Raife is calling again.
Snap Snap
Look back!
That's it!
This is the way it should be. At least he didn't trick you.
All that happened is that I'm back in my safe lifestyle.
Good! One more cut!
Hrmph!
In conclusion...
Daniel Raife was just another old-fashioned, hardheaded male.
The love is back!
After I said that, she apologized.
Mark and Phoebe are back together.
Aren't you worried?
Things might change after she becomes a model.
"I'm not against your wanting to be a model, Phoebe!
I'm mad because you kept it from me!"

Lee! Come quick!
Not today.
Did I get another call from Mr. Raife today, Sally?
Maybe…
"Men should also come to realize…
…he's trying…
…to apologize?
…just how selfish their philosophies can be."
What is it? Did something…
Gillian!
Hurry, hurry!
It's incredible!
Click
……
So, Daniel, the reason for your success is your sister?
It must be nice to be so young.
Ring, Ring
RRR…
Hi, Phoebe!
It doesn't do any good to think like that.
All I'm worried about is "right now"!
Grin
After our father passed away, she worked very hard to get me into college."
However, my sister believed that her unfortunate position was her duty.
"My father was old-fashioned. He kept her out of school, believing that women didn't need an education.
They shouldn't let themselves be tied down by the selfish thinking of men."
"That's why I still believe that woman are the ones who can benefit the most from an education.

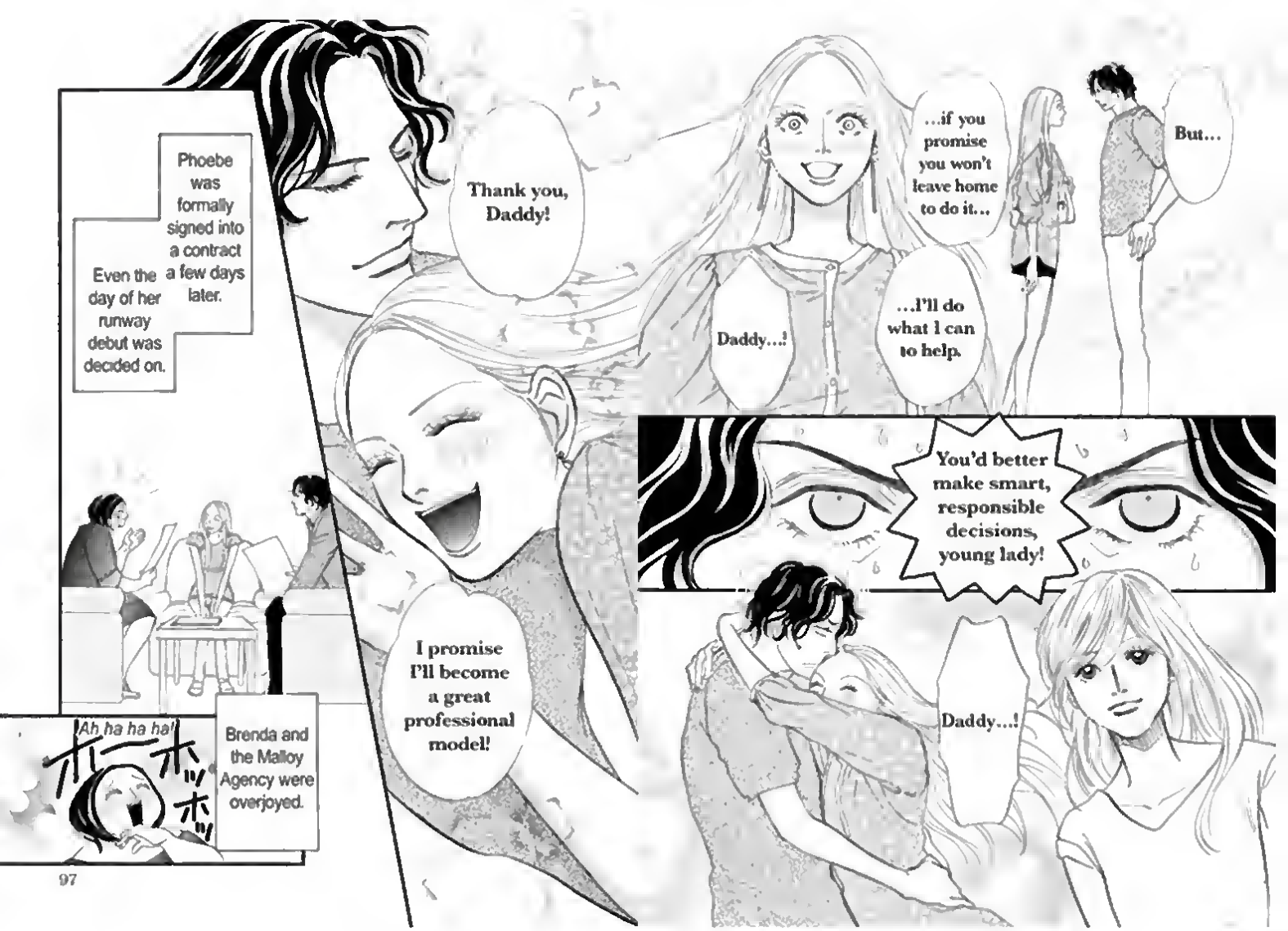
Please forgive me.
I'm sorry.
I think... ...that's why I need you.
I want to see you right away.
...I'm full of contradictions.
It was just like you said...
Wow!
Ring Ring
RRRRR
Huh?
Ring Ring
RRRRR
Come on!
You have to be kidding!
Where's that phone?
Lee.
Hello!

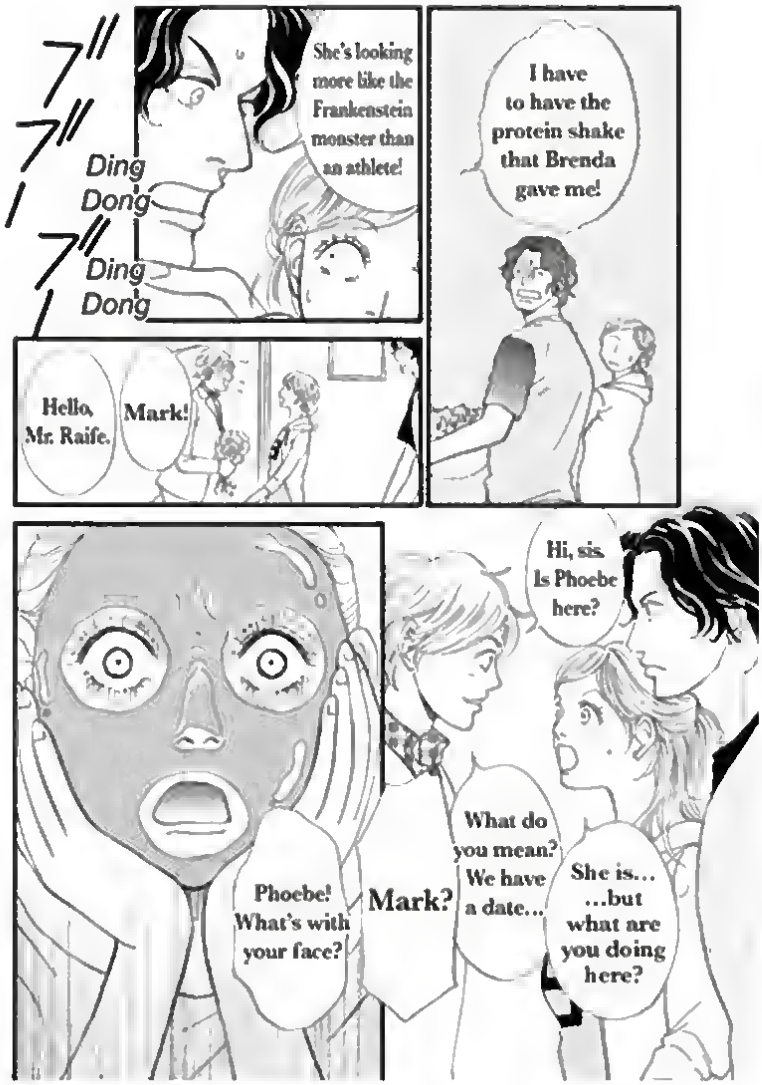
I...
I didn't want to let my daughter choose a career based on her femininity.
But...
...it was probably because I thought her life would be dominated by men.
That must have been what she was thinking when she left and registered at the Malloy Agency.
If she can prove that she can provide for herself, she's legally allowed to leave home.
Phoebe is thinking about running away.
She's prepared to go that far to defy my wishes.
If you don't want to lose Phoebe, you have to let her be free.
Daniel...
Daniel Raife...
...my feelings for him get stronger
For every obstacle we overcome...
You're such a problem.
I was watching your interview...

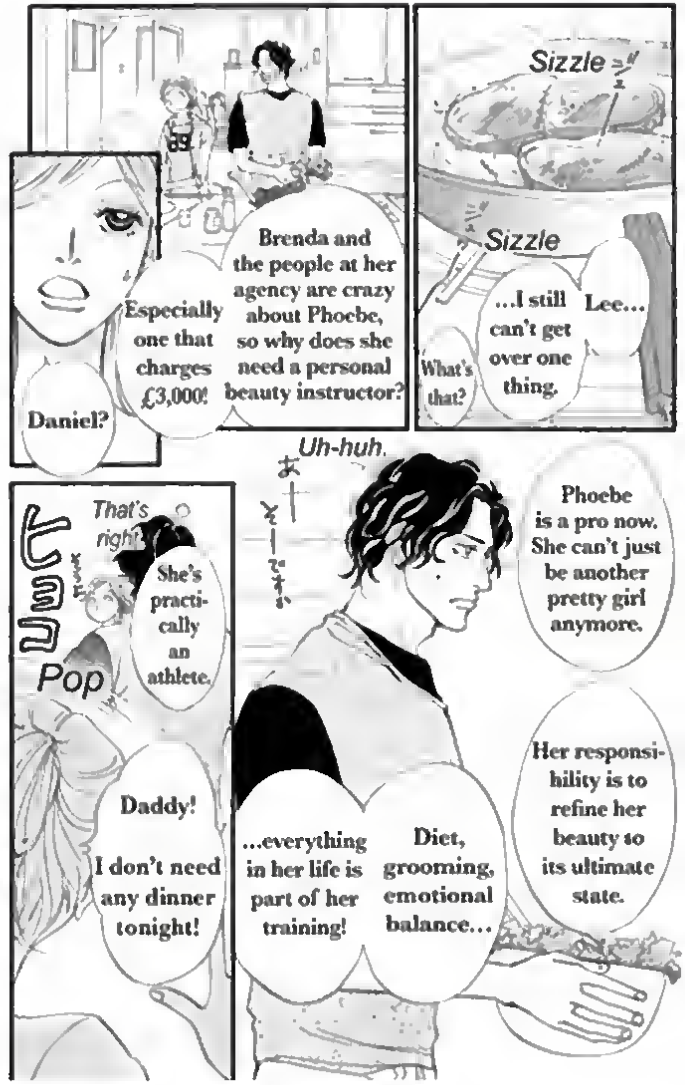

I'm 16 already!
Once I can prove that I can support myself, I can leave this...
Phoebe!
Does getting back together with her mean that you're ready to accept my decision, Dad?
No... That's not...
Then we don't have anything to talk about.
You want your father to accept your decision, don't you?
That's not how to get his approval.
If you think you're such an adult, why don't you try listening to him?
Phoebe... I'm still against your wanting to become a model.

Just stay quiet and let her be free.
That's all you can do.

...I should take the problem seriously.
...and says that he needs my help...
If he has a problem...
Lee is here with me.
Phoebe.
We have to talk. Phoebe!
I'm home.


But...
...if you promise you won't leave home to do it...
Daddy...!
...I'll do what I can to help.
You'd better make smart, responsible decisions, young lady!
Daddy...!
Thank you, Daddy!
I promise I'll become a great professional model!
Phoebe was formally signed into a contract a few days later.
Even the day of her runway debut was decided on.
Brenda and the Malloy Agency were overjoyed.
Ah ha ha ha!


Ding Dong
Ding Dong
She's looking more like the Frankenstein monster than an athlete!
I have to have the protein shake that Brenda gave me!
Hello, Mr. Raife.
Mark!
Phoebe! What's with your face?
Mark?
What do you mean? We have a date...
Hi, sis. Is Phoebe here?
She is... ...but what are you doing here?


Daniel?
Especially one that charges £3,000!
Brenda and the people at her agency are crazy about Phoebe, so why does she need a personal beauty instructor?
Sizzle
Sizzle
What's that?
...I still can't get over one thing.
Lee...
Uh-huh.
Pop
That's right!
She's practically an athlete.
Daddy! I don't need any dinner tonight!
...everything in her life is part of her training!
Diet, grooming, emotional balance...
Her responsihility is to refine her beauty to its ultimate state.
Phoebe is a pro now. She can't just be another pretty girl anymore.

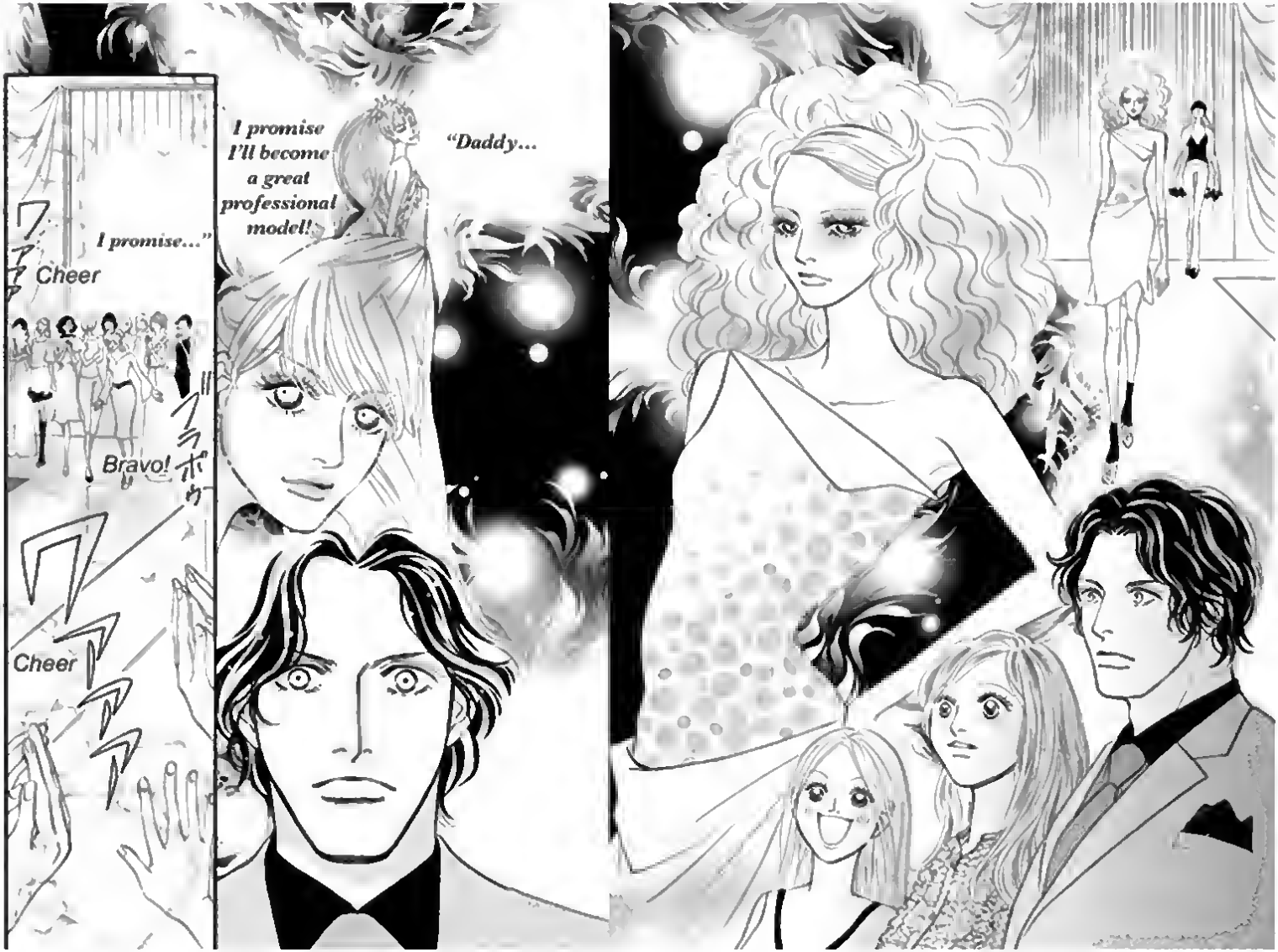
Go ahead and throw me away!
You think your boyfriend is less important than your facial treatment?
Wait!
Mark!
Well, that's fine with me.
Oh, boy.
Phoebe!
Mark!
I'm sorry! Wait!
I hate you, Daddy!
Let me go, Daddy!
Leave him be.
You apologized, and he's overreacting.
I didn't think he was right for you from the start...

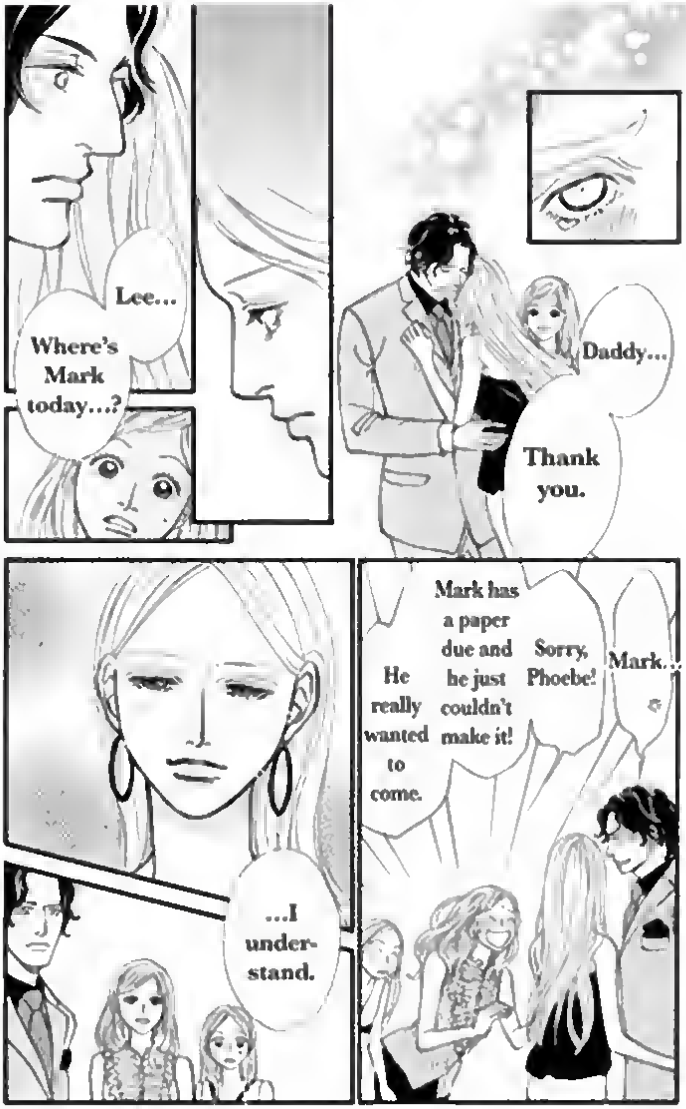
Phoebe?
...I'm sorry, Mark. I completely forgot.
...I can't go.
I just started my facial treatment
.....
You forgot?
Do you know how hard it was to get these tickets? Never mind. We can still make it if you hurry.
Fwap!
I can't! I only have enough for one, and I have to write a report on it.
What are you talking about? Just start it again when you get home.
I'm sorry, Mark...
...You think models can just do whatever they want?

She used to say the same about me...until recently.
...She's all that I can think about.
Her world changes with her situation all the time.
It's just the age she's at.
Mark.
Phoebe needs time to adjust to her new situation.
You have to understand.
What should I do, sis?
Mark...
It hurts.
Oh. N-Nothing.
What's wrong, Lee?
Sigh
Since when did my daughter become the kind of girl that fawns over a guy like that?
"Jimmy...
I was wrong...!
Take me back!"
Gulp
The thing is... Phoebe is much younger than you.
You worked so hard to make Phoebe happy.
Mark... I know that she hurt your feelings.

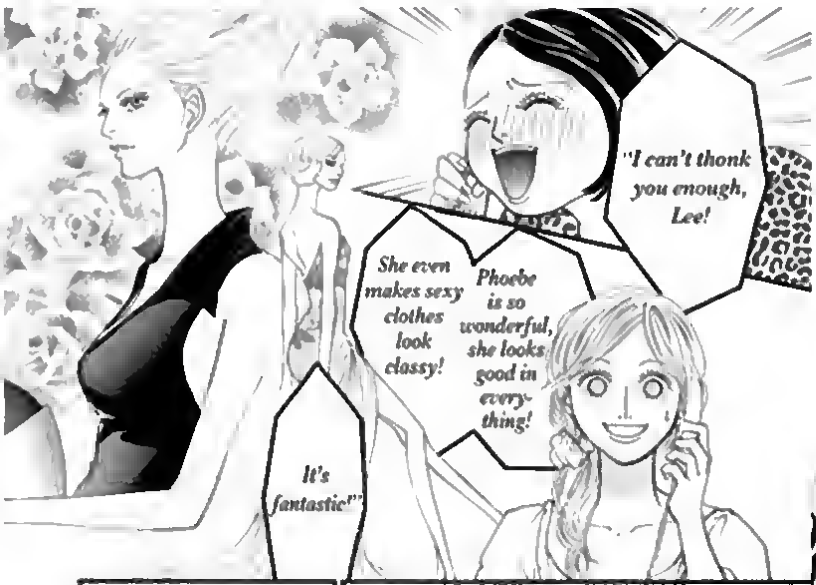
I'm not her mother.
I don't think she'd mind a little family bonding with you.
Why don't you team up with Phoebe and get famous, too?
You're shameless!
Snap
Snap
Not a problem!
Only if you promote my book next to it.
Daniel! Mom! It's starting!
Daniel!
This is hardly the time or place!
If it were me, I'd jump at the chance to become Sonia's father.

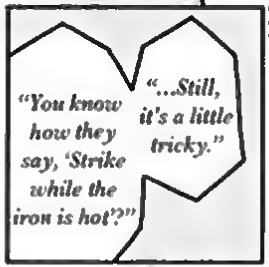
Rabble
Rabble
It's crowded.
Mostly students' parents.
Hi, Lee!
There are a lot of them this year.
There are the magazine editors and professional photographers.
I've never been to a fashion show at a modeling school before!
Hello, Mr. Raife! You must be so proud today!
Oh, I didn't really...
I heard you discovered this year's star! Well done!
Well, I...
May I take a photo for my article?

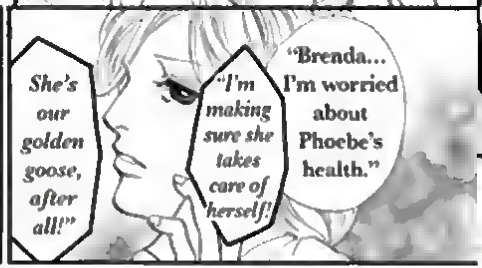

I promise...”
Cheer
Bravo!
ブラボー
Cheer
I promise I'll become a great professional model!
“Daddy...


Lee...
Where's Mark today...?
Daddy...
Thank you.
...I understand.
He really wanted to come.
Mark has a paper due and he just couldn't make it!
Sorry, Phoebe!
Mark...

Hi, everyone!
You were the prettiest model on stage!
You've become so much more brilliant than when I took that photo.
You were wonderful, Phoebe.
Congratulations, Phoebe.
Thank you, Sonia!
It was hard to believe you were my daughter.
You were fantastic.
Daddy...

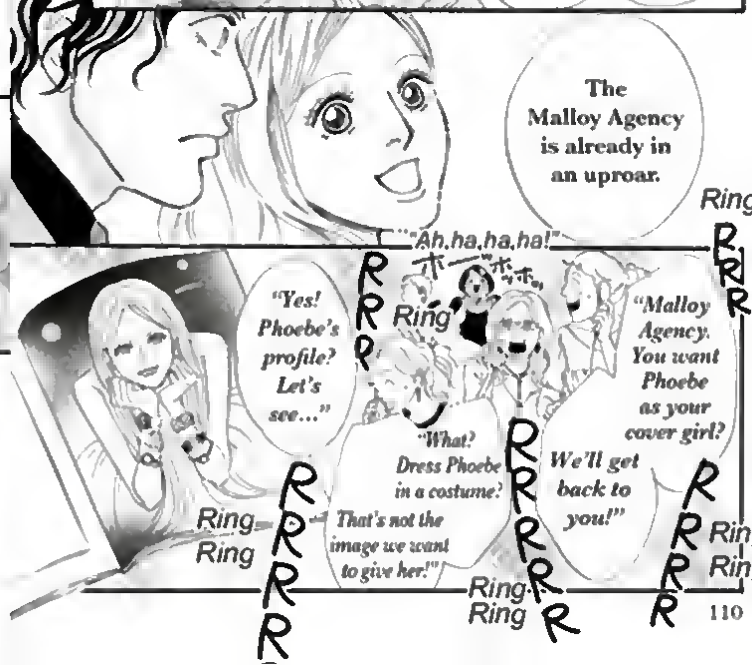

"I can't thonk you enough, Lee!
She even makes sexy clothes look classy!
Phoebe is so wonderful, she looks good in every-thing!
It's fantastic"


"You know how they say, 'Strike while the iron is hot'?"
"...Still, it's a little tricky."


She's our golden goose, after all!"
"I'm making sure she takes care of herself!
"Brenda... I'm worried about Phoebe's health."

Anyway...
...that's what Brenda is saying, but this fever pitch is a problem for me, too.
PUB Restrant
Miranda

Oh? I thought you'd be happy things aren't working out between them.
That Mark. Making my daughter feel that way...
Don't worry about Phoebe's work.
I just don't want Phoebe's work to be affected by him!
I never said that I didn't want them to be together.


The Malloy Agency is already in an uproar.
Ring
"Ah,ha,ha,ha!"
"Yes! Phoebe's profile? Let's see..."
Ring
"Malloy Agency. You want Phoebe as your cover girl?
"What? Dress Phoebe in a costume?
We'll get back to you!"
That's not the image we want to give her!"
Ring Ring
Ring Ring
Ring Ring

It's a cookbook of low-fat meals.
You can show your fatherly support by making her good food to eat.
Oh, right. I brought this for you.
I want to cook her something for energy, but I can't let her eat too much greasy food...
Her celebrity came so suddenly.
I asked Brenda to keep an eye on her.

Daniel...
I want you to be by my side forever.
Oh, Lee...

What do they think I've put so much work into this field for?
The worst!
I suppose that would be insulting.
It's disgusting.
People are making me job offers because of my connection to Phoebe.

But this craziness over Phoebe has already gone beyond that.
I know.
Even Phoebe is getting by with the help of my name's brand value.
Lee... I know you want to be recognized for your work, but you know that's not how this industry works.

...She's lost more weight.
It must be hardest on her.
I hope Phoebe is all right.

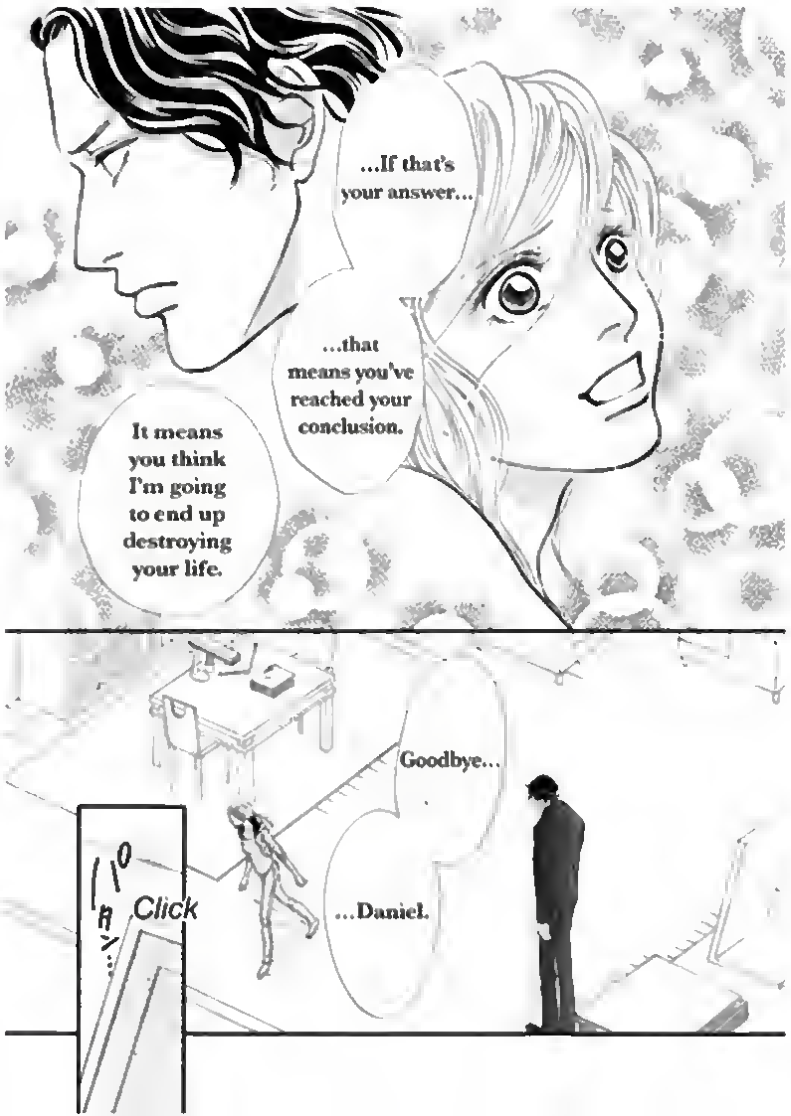
Daniel...
About marriage, I...
Snap
What...?
Hey, Daniel!
Does bringing her to Miranda's Pub mean this is the one?
This is Lee Meredith, a photographer.
Last month's *Vogue* was pretty good!
Do your research. That's your job, isn't it?
Lee, this is John Herman.
The gossip columnist?
Oh... I'm sorry.
Not at all! I'm happy to be recognized!
You know who I am?
Of course!
*Daniel Raife didn't comment on his relationship with her, but his burning eyes said it all.*
*The woman is Lee Meredith, an accomplished photographer, who found...*
Sis! Look at this!
What, Mark?
You're in John Herman's column!
Were you trying to get your picture taken?
It was Daniel's idea...
...Megastar supermodel, Phoebe at 15...
He's trying to make me as famous as Phoebe.
Phoebe...
She's lost so much weight...!

Please! If you hear anything from her, let me know!
I will, Brenda.
Do you have any idea where she could be, Lee?
I-I haven't the foggiest...
Mr. Raife is in Germany on a trip...
I haven't seen her all morning!
Daniel is in Germany...
They're alone together!
Well... I guess if he's in her house...
She's there with him?
What?
He's at Phoebe's place!
Mom, Mark called.

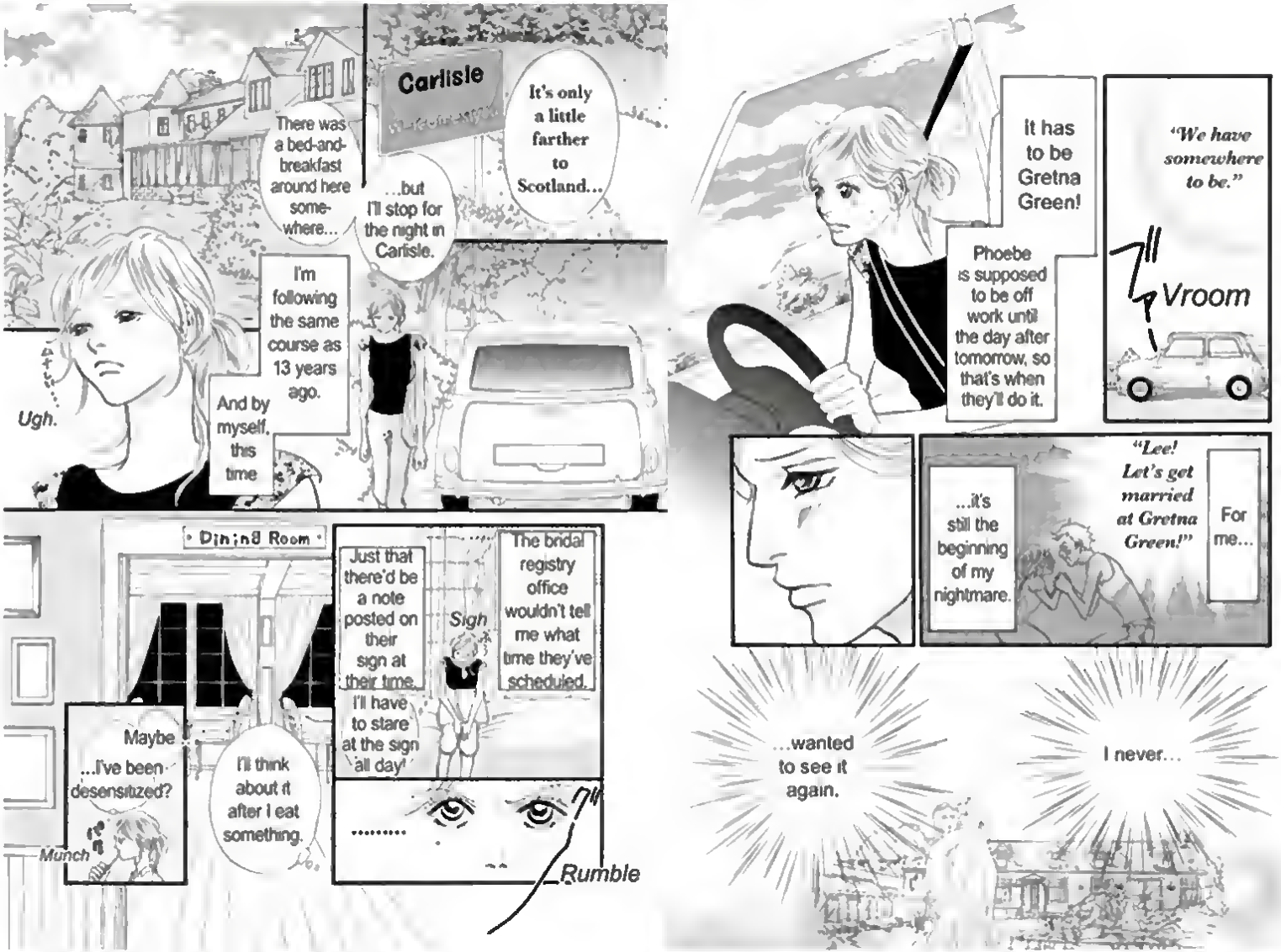
UCL
DARWIN BUILDING
Hide
Come on, Mark. You can't say that.
Why not?
Pace
Pace
Phoebe didn't show up for work?
What?

...Sis.
...but you can't call yourself a professional!
I won't hit you. You're still a model...
Turn
Here it comes...!
That money is for your future!
I want you to give me my £30,000 inheritance.
I'm going to marry Phoebe.
Grab
What are you...!
You don't have the right to tell me what to do!
Sis.
Pant Pant
...Mark!
Click
Come inside. You're bothering the whole neighborhood.
Bang Bang Bang
Mark!
Open up!
Did you take Phoebe away from work?
Slap!
I was the one who went to see Mark! I had to!
Stop it, Lee!
Yeah.
We couldn't stand being away from each other.
Now, more than ever.

Phoebe is gone...?
What...
...is going on?
Lee...
I hoped...
....that you would understand...
Let's go.
We have somewhere to be.
Slam
...and Mark...
...Phoebe
They're...
...getting married...
Lee!
Slam


...If that's your answer...
...that means you've reached your conclusion.
It means you think I'm going to end up destroying your life.
Goodbye...
...Daniel.
Click

It's because of my influence on her!
It's because you met me!
Tell me!
How did this happen, Lee?
Tick Tick
How did this happen?
...Phoebe
"That's why I respect her."
...once said, "Lee has the courage to do what her feelings tell her."
If I say that, then we're finished, right...?
Daniel...
Is that...
...what you want to hear from me?


Carlisle
It's only a little farther to Scotland...
There was a bed-and-breakfast around here somewhere...
...but I'll stop for the night in Carlisle.
I'm following the same course as 13 years ago.
And by myself, this time
Ugh.
It has to be Gretna Green!
Phoebe is supposed to be off work until the day after tomorrow, so that's when they'll do it.
"We have somewhere to be."
Vroom
"Lee! Let's get married at Gretna Green!"
For me...
...it's still the beginning of my nightmare.
Dining Room
Just that there'd be a note posted on their sign at their time.
I'll have to stare at the sign all day!
Sigh
The bridal registry office wouldn't tell me what time they've scheduled.
Maybe ...I've been desensitized?
Munch
I'll think about it after I eat something.
.....
Rumble
...wanted to see it again.
I never...

So... I hired a private detective in Scotland.
They can't give out personal information.
Me, too.
I tried asking the registry for their wedding schedule, but had no luck.
They're scheduled for first thing in the morning.
I got a call from him on my way here.
What?
He's watching the notice board at the bridal registry.
This is awkward.
I'm glad I ran into you here.
R-Really?

Daniel?
Gasp!
I couldn't eat a thing that night, 13 years ago.
I can still eat in a situation like this.
You're kidding!
Lee...

I love you...!
Daniel...
...and how you fly off the handle for the love of your daughter.
...how blunt you are...
...how full of contradictions you are when it comes to women...
I love you, despite your tyrannical stubbornness...
We need to talk.
...don't have any patience.
I really...
..Ugh.
What... ...is he thinking about?
What is he seeing?
What is Daniel doing right now?
How does he look?
It's bothering me like crazy.
Good night.
We just broke up and we're staying in the same place.
Of course it is.

My heart won't stop telling me...
I love you, Lee...!
...that Daniel is where my "story" leads.
I guess...
Yes...
All right.
...I have to give in.

You're pretty blunt, too.
That's a lot of criticism at once.
I wanted to get it all out,
I've done nothing but hurt you.
I'm so sorry.
...I forgive you.
I've been a tyrant.
I agree.
...don't ever leave my side again...!
Lee... Please...

...apparently the bride is having second thoughts.
I know I was.
Maybe she was just nervous.
I wonder why?
But you still got married?
Things might have been different if my parents made it in time to stop us.
I was still under Jimmy's spell.
We had a stupid fight...
...and I walked by myself to the smithy where the wedding was supposed to be.
Let's try the smithy!
That's why we have to be in time!
I was starting to have regrets.
It was so far from the romantic elopement I'd imagined...
S...
Stop that bride...
...and groom...!
Registry Office
Let's have the first couple
Somebody take a picture!
誰か写真とってくれー
Huh?
Wha...?
Eeeee! It's Daniel Raife!
They canceled?
They've been rescheduled for the afternoon, but...
What?
It wasn't them! What's going on?
Let's find out.

All right?
You shouldn't have left work like that!
...But...
Phoebe...
I'm not angry with you.
I just want to talk.
Daniel! Be careful!
Welcome to Old Blacksmith's Shop
It's become quite a tourist trap.
Daniel, look!
"Done!"
The couple would hold hands, say their vows and the blacksmith would strike the anvil, saying...
Long ago, the traditional place to be married was at the village blacksmith's smithy.
If you still want to be a model, I'll come with you to apologize to the agency.
You're going...
...to be a professional, right?
...I understand that you did it because you really love Mark.
You can just come home.
So if something happened between you...
Phoebe!
What is Mark doing, leaving her by herself?
Daddy...
Snap Snap
It's Phoebe.
She's alone...

You knew how much I cared about Phoebe, and you still wouldn't help.
Mark!
We wouldn't have gotten into this stupid argument if you hadn't been so stingy.
ボコッ!
Pow!
Daniel!
How much you "cared about Phoebe ...!?
You have no means of payment but all the pride in the world, huh?
Who do you think you are?
Little brat!
I'm so sorry...!
Daddy...!
...with you...!
I... I want to go home...
Money.
...Why did you delay the ceremony?
It's because you wouldn't give me my £30,000, sis!
Ridic-ulous.
Then we fought...
I said that it would be easy for us because I could support us both.
I was making more money, but Mark wouldn't let me pay.

You can paint over old memories with new ones.
Then, you won't be able to see what was underneath them.
That's the color of happiness.
Lee.
Not here!
B-But... I don't want to.
Let's begin with your history with Gretna Green.
Here, get up.
Er...
Why don't we use their afternoon reservation?
What?
Well...
...now they have a long, hard road ahead of them.
Mark!
...you have to become a man worthy of me!
If you really care about me...
Phoebe...
You're smart! You can do it!
Now you look like a bride.
I can't wait any longer.
What?
You accepted my proposal, didn't you?
For our anvil wedding.

Today is the day of my second wedding.
If you'll join hands...
Marriage ANVIL
I, Lee Meredith, promise to take Daniel Raife as my husband, till death do us part.
I, Daniel Raife, promise to take Lee Meredith as my wife, till death do us part.
Clang!
The place is the same ..
...but with a better man...
And...
...and I feel so much more excited than before...
...Done!
...with my new family...
I can't wait to start a new story...
Should I call you, "uncle"?
Gross!
Not present
I wanted to be there!
Daniel and Daughter The End

# Shojo-Manhwa Scans

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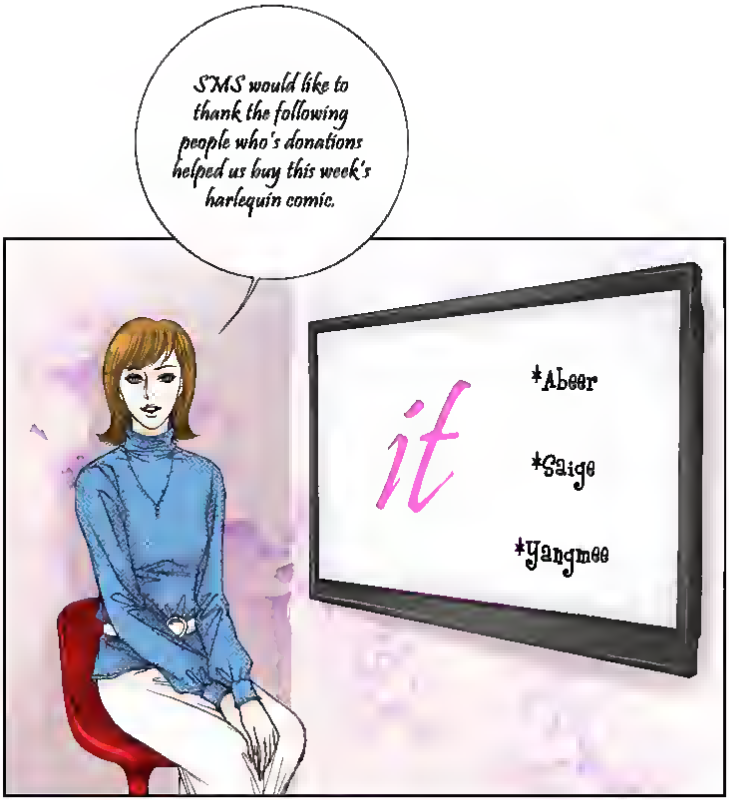
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